FAC for March remains the same. PAGE 5
More resources to be directed to uncover meth labs. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Termination of parole authority feared

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) fears the possible termination of the CNMI parole authority, which allows Chinese and Russian tourists to enter the CNMI.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday at his office at Susupe, Sablan said he loses sleep over thinking about the Trump administration possibly ending the CNMI parole authority for Chinese and Russian tourists.

"I worked hard to get the parole

See PAROLE on Page 4

Group to review NMI ties with US meets

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The second commission that will examine the political union between the United States and the Commonwealth for the first time met yesterday and elected its officials.

The second Marianas Political Status Commission officially met for the first time yesterday. The nine-

See GROUP on Page 4

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Board of Education chair Marylou Ada shake hands after the $24-million supplemental budget was signed into law yesterday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. They are joined by BOE vice chair Janice Tenorio, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Public School System federal programs officer Tim Thornborough, Northern Marianas Trades Institute executive officer Agnes McPhetres, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muna, and Chief Justice Alexandro Castro

BEA CABRERA

PSS gets half of $24M supplemental budget

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
- CHCC gets funding boost. **PAGE 2**

The Public School System was appropriated $12 million yesterday when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law the $24-million supplemental budget from the Special Casino Gross Revenue Tax Account.

Under the appropriation for PSS, $150,000 will go to the Board of Education and $11.85 million will go to various PSS projects: $1.3 million for school facilities repairs and upgrades,

See PSS on Page 4

CHCC addresses mental health issues

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

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- PSS assures parents about students' safety. **PAGE 3**

The Community Guidance Center of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is encouraging the community to avail of its services, which include help in coping with de-

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A teacher barricaded himself inside a classroom and fired a handgun.

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More than 57,000 illegal firearms are handed in during a recent Australian amnesty.

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LIFE & STYLE
Sen. John McCain's daughter Meghan says it was hurtful to see Trump talk about her father.

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Local

CHCC gets funding boost

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. got a much-needed funding of $2.75 million from the $24-million supplemental budget bill Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law yesterday.

The supplemental budget is from the Special Casino Gross Revenue Tax Account.

Muña

Broken down, the supplemental budget for CHCC gives $2.5 million for indigent care and the remaining $250,000 for the Electronic Healthcare Records System.

CHCC CEO Esther Muña said the funding would assist CHCC to defray its costs. They plan to use the funding to bring in specialists and acquire an advanced technology CT scan, with the hope that people will eventually not fly out for medical referrals.

"We have a commitment to this community to have quality services and we hope to eventually receive all the funding we originally asked for," she said.

In April 2017, CHCC asked the Legislature for $15 million "for improvement of services, advancement of services, hiring specialty care," she said. "We have some specialists coming in the summer so this funding will help pay for those services so it's definitely going to be helpful for us. There's going to be some more funding and we are looking forward to that."

Muña said that any additional funding that CHCC receives always go to patient care.

"We were already entering the fiscal year with the idea that whether we receive the funding or not, we were going to improve our services no matter what and so that was one of the reasons why we looked into increasing our rates…At the end of the day, it's about taking care of the people that cannot be helped financially," she said.

"This funding eases up the hospitals needs. We are accountable for the funds that we receive and again, the idea is to bring it to patient care," she added.

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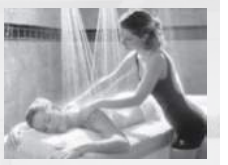
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PSS assures parents about students' safety

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Public School System vows to carry the responsibility of keeping the best interests of students first as well as maintaining a safe and protected environment for the students while they are in schools.

Board of Education chair Marylou C. Ada said that they are very much aware of shooting events in the U.S. mainland and that they are keeping close watch.

"The recent shooting in Florida was truly heartbreaking and we are looking at how best we can avoid situations like that to keep our students safe. We have met with our crisis management team and we are looking for solutions and best scenarios to keep gun violence away from our schools," she said.

"We recognize that just because those circumstances happen in the mainland, it doesn't mean it cannot happen here. We are establishing preventive measures in place so that…we are ready," she added.

Ada said that public schools are currently doing lockout and man-made violence drills but they plan to add some more.

"We are going to do a lot of drills and safety measures for the students to be accustomed to situations acted out in the drills so when that happens we are not confused, we will not be in a position wherein we don't know what to do or who to call," she said.

"Keeping children safe is our major concern and we are looking into that. In fact, this will be one of our agenda at the next board meeting," she added.

According to Ada, the BOE is also aware of suicides lately plaguing the PSS community.

"This is a very personal issue and we respect the privacy of the families involved. Everybody knows it…we are feeling it. The students are feeling it and it is very sensitive and emotional, that's why we'd rather keep it contained and honor requests," she said.

"Our crisis management team, which consists of counselors, principals, and other professionals, are putting themselves out there to be available for students, whether on a one-on-one or group conversation to talk about problems and these conversations are aimed at having solutions," she added.

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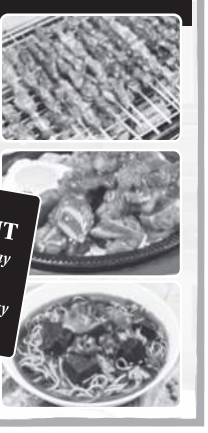

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Roadside waving and health walk today

The Commonwealth Cancer Association kicks off Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month today with a roadside waving and a health walk.

The month of March was proclaimed Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month last Feb. 22. The entire month will feature activities that promote health, wellness, and colorectal cancer awareness.

To kick off their month-long activities, CCA will host a roadside waving that will start at 4pm today and will end at 4:30pm. The Health Walk that will start from the Garapan Public Market up until Quartermaster Road and back will start right after, from 4:30pm to 6pm.

CCA is urging the entire community to take part in spreading awareness about colorectal cancer while also having a good time with friends, family, and others. ***(Kimberly Bautista)***

Court unseals case vs 2 other 'ice' lab suspects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI unsealed yesterday the case against two other men who were also arrested in connection with the alleged clandestine methamphetamine lab on Saipan.

Rick U. Omar Jr., also known as Boboy, and Sidney Capelle Kani were served on Wednesday with an arrest warrant issued by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

The U.S. Marshal Service served the arrest warrant on Omar and Kani after the U.S. government filed a complaint charging them in federal court with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Manglona appointed David G. Banes as counsel for Omar and Colin M. Thompson as counsel for Kani.

Vincent David Cabrera Jr. and Eugene Blas Repeki were the first to be formally charged with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and illegal possession of a controlled substance before the district court and the Superior Court.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents and CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Customs officers arrested the four and searched the clandestine "ice" laboratory in a hotel room and at a Dandan home last Sunday.

According to DEA special agent Kirk F. Johns, it was Omar who purchased from a pharmacy a box of 30 pills of Sudogest 60 mg, a cold medicine, last Oct. 15.

Omar was picked up by a waiting car driven by a person who also bought five minutes earlier at the same pharmacy two boxes of 30 pills each of the same medicine.

Johns said records also showed that Omar purchased active pseudo-ephedrine at two pharmacies last Sept. 10 and 15.

Johns said a confidential source revealed that Cabrera, Repeki and Kani are all involved in manufacturing "ice."

Johns said that, last Feb. 1, using their confidential source they were able to buy $250 worth of "ice" from Kani and Repeki. Kani allegedly acted as a middle man in the deal.

The special agents said it was Omar who contacted Repeki to sell $300 worth of "ice" to a confidential source last Feb. 8.

GROUP

From Page 1

member commission is composed of chair Pete P. Reyes, vice chair Frank Rabauliman, secretary Rosemond B. Santos, members Elizabeth D. Rechebei and John O. Gonzales representing Saipan; Richard Lazaro representing Tinian; and Fermin Atalig and Aubry M. Hocog representing Rota.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan are ex-officio non-voting members.

The supposedly ninth voting member, Kimberly Hinds representing Tinian, withdrew her nomination.

The commission was created after former representative Felicidad Ogumoro's House Bill 19-02 was enacted into law as Public Law 19-63 in late August 2016.

Ogumoro said last Wednesday that the commission was organized to assess the CNMI's relationship to the U.S.

"[The commission] would be meeting with people and, from that meeting, [the commission] would know what priorities…need to be addressed," she said, adding that the commission would also come up with recommendations based on their meetings.

"We should always assess whatever we are doing. It is a very important issue," said Ogumoro, referring to the CNMI's relationship with the U.S.

"Why do we have to prolong [this]? It is always good to come to the table and assess [matters]," she said, adding that she is admittedly dissatisfied with the relationship between the U.S. and the CNMI.

"…But let the people speak. Let the people come together and state their concerns. From that, we…formulate a plan for action."

According to P.L. 19-63, the commission has the responsibility to examine the political relationship of the NMI and the U.S. and determine whether the people of the CNMI are still in favor of being in a political union with the U.S.

The commission would also examine actions taken by the U.S. that contradict and violate the provisions and spirit of the Covenant," whether based off of the U.S.' interpretation on enhancing provisions of the Covenant, whether such positions require the people of the NMI to carefully study and reconsider the political ties.

The commission would submit its recommendations, if any, of alternative political status options that benefit the NMI and would submit its final report to the CNMI Legislature for review and approval prior to submission to the Commonwealth Election Commission, who would then present the political status options to qualified voters.

The first Marianas Political Status Commission was formed back in 1972 and came up with the Covenant in 1976, which officially made the CNMI a self-governing U.S. territory.

PAROLE

From Page 1

authority back in 2009," said Sablan, adding that the program has "served the CNMI well."

"The economy…is largely dependent on Chinese parole. Forty percent of our tourists are from China. The casino has Chin[ese] as their main patrons. The governor understands that keeping parole is the No. 1 issue of U.S. President Donald J. Trump since Day 1," he added.

Sablan recounted seeing a draft executive order back in February 2017 terminating the parole authority. That executive order didn't happen.

"As we've seen, if [former president Barack Obama] did it, Trump is undoing it," Sablan said, adding that Trump has been undoing several Obama-era initiatives using his executive powers such as revoking temporary and protected status for Haitians, Salvadorians, ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, and more.

"More so now, my worry is the Marianas parole [authority] for tourists could be next. I have met with the Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security Investigations, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services," said Sablan. "The field officers are telling Washington, D.C. that the parole is really hard to enforce," adding that overstaying tourists; working tourists; on-the-job deaths; minimum wage violations; birth tourism, and more could possibly jeopardize the parole authority under the Trump administration.

"I wish that I could share more with you, but I am alarmed and I am very worried about this program ending in the Marianas. [The program's end] would be a major harm to our economy," he said, adding that he has "reason to be very alarmed." He declined to specify those reasons.

People are often confused between parole authority—which allows tourists from China and Russia to enter the CNMI—and the visa waiver program—which allows the entry of tourists from Australia, Brunei, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom.

The CNMI parole authority is responsible for bringing almost half of the total tourist population in the CNMI. Korea and China, the top two tourist markets for the CNMI, comprise over 95 percent of total arrivals to the Marianas. Anything that will throttle the entry of Chinese tourists to the CNMI, could cripple the local economy.

CHCC

From Page 1

pression, anxiety, or suicidal thoughts.

Among the suite of services available at the center is the Garret Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program, where teenagers and adults may avail of counseling, speak with a therapist, or obtain what is called wraparound care (defined as a childcare facility intended to help working parents, in which young children are looked after before and after school).

The public can avail of the center's services on a voluntary basis and participant have the ability to end services at any time.

The center pointed out that that it is not true that talking about suicide or asking someone if they feel suicidal will encourage suicide attempts.

Talking about suicide provides the opportunity for communication. Through communication, fears that are shared are more likely to diminish. The first step in dissuading a suicidal person from pursuing suicidal thoughts comes from talking about those feelings.

CGC would also like to encourage the community to get rid of the idea that depression is all in an individual's head. Depression is a medical condition in which the brain chemistry, function, and structure are negatively affected by environmental or biological factors.

The CGC has made it its mission to reduce the incidents of suicidal behaviors in the community and increase access to appropriate prevention and intervention services.

CGC aims to build upon creating a community where suicide prevention is embraced and incorporated within the community, to nurture and support the mental and behavioral needs of the Commonwealth, especially those at risk of suicide.

For individuals who suspect depression in themselves or a loved one, make an appointment with CGC by calling 664-4607 or 236-8750.

For individuals who are in need of someone to talk to right away, at any hour of the day, feel free to call 1-800-273-TALK (8255), a toll-free hotline available to those in the CNMI.

For more information about CGC's services, the office can be reached at 664-4607 or 236-8750.

PSS

From Page 1

$2.5 million for instructional materials, and $1 million for school buses.

Board of Education chair Marylou Ada said "it was a long and tedious process but we finally made it. We are now going to get on with our projects. Everything now is in place and we don't have to worry about funding which is the fruit of everything."

"This did not only make the Board of Education happy but also the 10,000 PSS students and 1,500 PSS employees," she added.

Last December, the House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee set aside $15 million from the supplemental budget for PSS, in compliance with the constitutional mandate that 25 percent of general funds must go to PSS.

In an earlier interview, committee chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) said the $15 million was at the request of the BOE, but the Department of Finance already initially released $12 million to meet the immediate needs of PSS.

"When they [BOE] submitted their listing, there was a total of $15 million but they came forward stating that their immediate need and highest priority amounted to $12 million. So we reached that understanding and I informed them because this is the first [business gross revenue tax] for fiscal year 2017," he said.

"We are expecting more collection and supplemental revenues throughout the fiscal year and so we would deliver their remaining $3 million in the next round. Our highest priority is to meet the list that BOE provided the committee," he added.

Ada cited the enormous responsibility that PSS encounters every day.

"Every morning, 10,000 kids roll out of their beds to go to school, 1,500 PSS employees get out of their beds at 3am so they can get to class at 6am to prepare the schools for their students when they come. With that, we have an enormous responsibility and I know Rep. Angel Demapan and the Senate members get tired because whenever I start my speech at hearings, I always say, 'on behalf of 10,000 kids 1,500 employees we implore you to pass House Bill 20-147,'" she said.

"So I am like the big elephant in the room, reminding them of the numbers, but seriously, there is an overflowing joy when you see the children smile when they get down from the school bus and run to the school campus. They are very happy and their parents are also pleased with the education that they are getting from PSS," she added.

Ada said the funding will help PSS carry out plans that are already in the pipeline.

"We are going to Guam for the Chamorro and the music competition and I know we are going to come home with a lot of awards…we are also going to Washington, D.C. for the Real World Design Competition that we have won four times and we have students that are going to California to compete at the national level of the spelling bee contest," she said.

"These will give you an image of all the success that we have achieved at PSS and we want to tell everyone how the money is spent," she added.

FAC for March remains the same

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s fuel adjustment charge for the month of March remains at $0.20109 per kilowatt-hour.

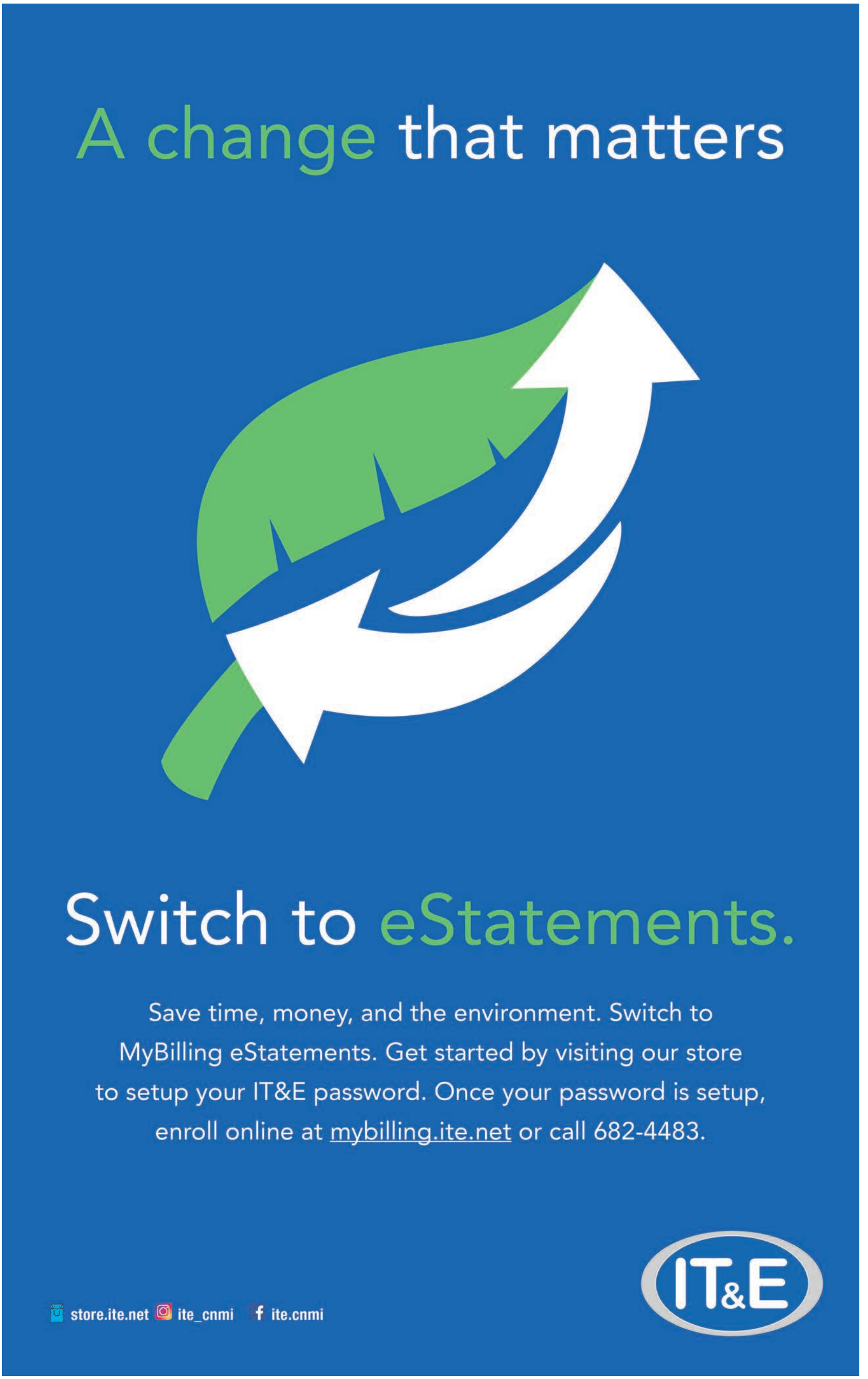
Although there has been a slight decrease in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from February to March as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the decrease did not equal or exceed a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

Accordingly, there will be no adjustment made to the overall CUC kWh rate for March.

CUC is allowed, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC first instituted LEAC in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In May 2015, CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the rate. ***(PR)***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More resources to be directed to uncover meth labs

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is pleased with law enforcement busting clandestine methamphetamine or "ice" laboratories on island and intends to provide the resources needed if it will lead to the discovery of more.

During a proclamation signing Tuesday at the Women's Affairs Office on Capital Hill, Torres said he is happy to hear that meth labs were busted over the weekend.

"It is good news that we're busting them, although it is unfortunate that we still have them," he said

Torres believes that the discovery was a joint effort among law enforcers, informants, and the government. "We are allocating, obviously, the right resources," he said.

This time, Torres will focus more efforts on meth laboratory hunting in hopes of ridding the CNMI of the drug.

"We are committed, more than ever, and for every other resource that we have, we'll put into these kinds of operations…. We want to continue moving forward and push every effort that we can to get those drugs out of our streets," he said.

Over the weekend, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents and CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Customs officers busted an ex-convict and a security guard who allegedly ran a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory in a room at the Saipan Vegas Resort and at a home in Dandan.

The men who allegedly ran the laboratories, Vincent David Cabrera Jr. and Eugene Blas Repeki, are awaiting preliminary hearings. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

4.4 earthquake occurs near Agrihan

A 4.4 magnitude earthquake occurred near Agrihan Tuesday morning, but there were no reports of injuries or damage to property.

According to the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, the earthquake happened at 11:17am 19.3 miles west of Agrihan.

EOC said the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue tsunami warnings or advisories.

Many residents on Saipan did not feel the temblor.

Five earthquakes recently occurred near Rota and Saipan in a week.

U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Aaron G. Wech told *Saipan Tribune* earlier that the series of earthquakes are normal and expected in tectonic settings like the CNMI. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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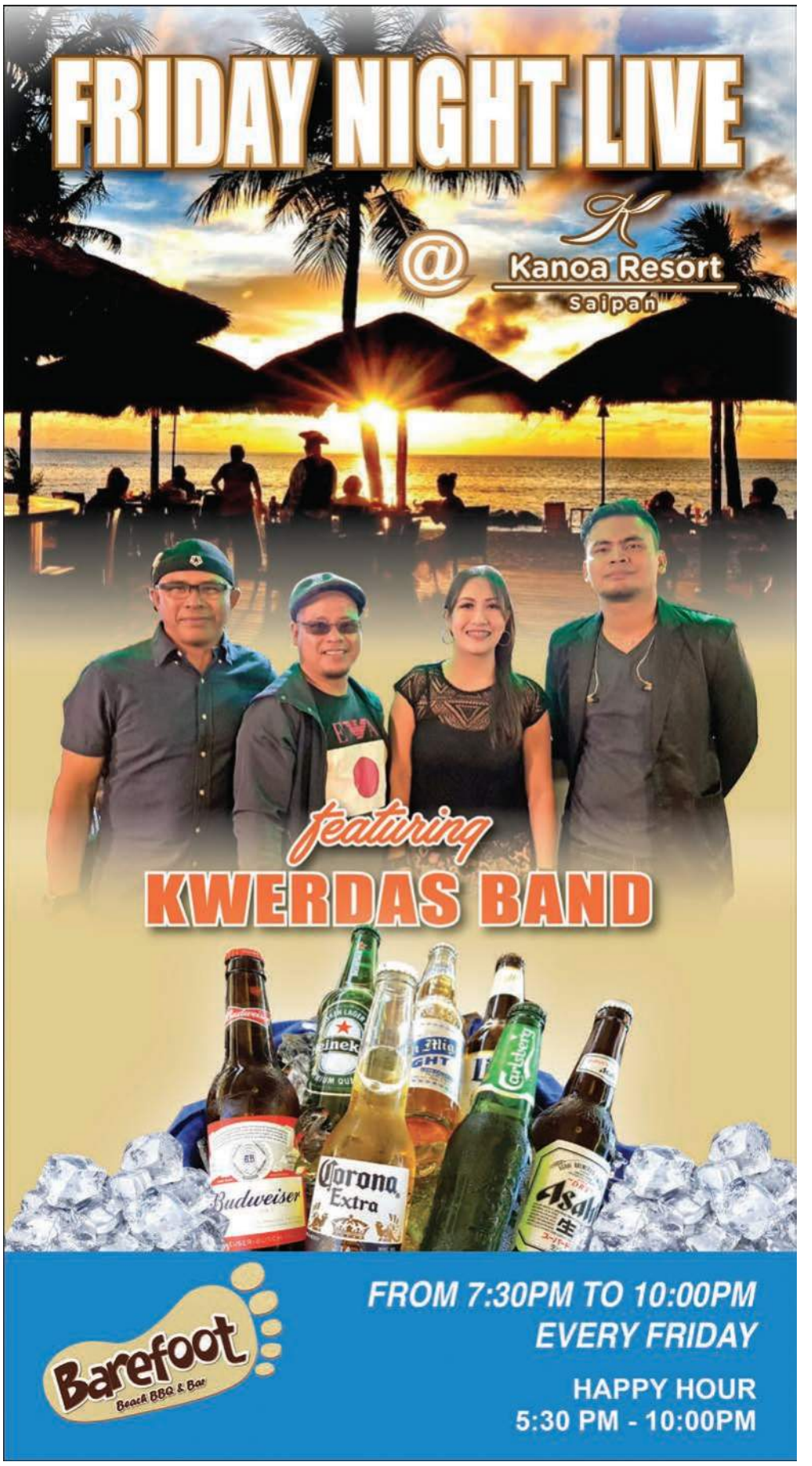

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The CNMI Family Planning Program is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Population Affairs, Title X

Hillbrom OK'd to travel to Saipan for deposition

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau Trial Division has granted Junior Larry Hillbroom's request to travel to Saipan in connection with his legal malpractice lawsuit against his two former lawyers.

Associate Justice Lourdes F. Materne, however, imposed several travel conditions, including that Hillbroom be escorted by Palau law enforcers.

Hillbroom is set to be deposed on Saipan on April 11-13, 2018.

Rachel A. Dimitruk, one of Hillbroom's counsels in the civil case in federal court, submitted Materne's order before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Last December, Materne reduced to $25,000 the $250,000 cash bail that was earlier imposed on Hillbroom.

The court allowed him to attend a court ordered mediation in a civil action. He is not allowed to leave Palau without prior court permission.

The justice prohibited Hillbroom from having any contact with drug offenders.

Hillbroom was arrested last October in Palau for allegedly trafficking in methamphetamine or "ice."

Hillbroom was released from jail last August after serving a 60-day prison sentence in Palau for pleading guilty to an escape charge.

Hillbroom filed a legal malpractice lawsuit in District Court against his former counsel, Barry Israel and Guam lawyer David J. Lujan.

Early in 2017, Hillbroom pleaded guilty to a lesser included offense of escape in the second degree in Palau and was slapped with a 60-day prison term.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Lee Hillblom. He was recaptured in Palau hours after he escaped from police custody on Feb. 9, 2016, just a few hours after he was arrested over the seizure of $160,000 worth of methamphetamine or "ice."

Hillbroom's name is spelled differently from DHL co-founder Hillblom.

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Demapan committee launches website

The campaign committee for Rep. Angel A. Demapan's bid for a U.S. delegate seat has launched its official campaign website, www.demapanforcongress.com.

"Our goal with this website is to provide voters a forum to learn more about [Rep.] Demapan and to allow potential voters the ability to communicate with [him] in the comforts of their homes or on the go, via smart devices," said Jerry L. Ayuyu, chairman for Demapan for Congress.

The website is designed to be interactive and gives better access to Demapan's professional and personal background and his priorities as the Republican candidate for U.S. delegate.

Integrated social media buttons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Flickr links are among the website features in an effort to foster improved communication with CNMI voters. It also includes a link that allows voters to donate to the campaign, as well as printable registration forms for new and returning voters to complete and mail to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

"We hope everyone will find the website informative and be inspired to join the movement to help elect… Demapan as our next delegate to the U.S. Congress," added Ayuyu.

The website will be constantly updated as they become available.

"My decision to run for U.S. Congress is fueled by the desire to serve all our people in the CNMI and abroad," said Demapan. "We are launching this website as part of our efforts to build a campaign that is inclusive and one that puts you, the people, in the driver's seat. You deserve a loyal voice to Washington, not Washington's voice to the CNMI."

For more information, contact Demapan for Congress via email at info@demapanforcongress.com. ***(PR)***

March is the month to honor women

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The progress made by women in the CNMI will be commemorated throughout March, an occasion marked by the designation of the month as Women's Month in a proclamation signing last Tuesday.

The CNMI Women's Association hosted the 10th annual proclamation signing that dedicates March to empowering women.

According to CWA president Rose Hocog, the CNMI has seen significant progress in how the community has embraced women as leaders and how the community has empowered women.

"We see women holding leadership roles in both the public and private sector. For this I would like to thank our former leaders and Gov. Torres and Lt. Gov. Hocog for believing in the ability of women and for placing them in some key positions on your Cabinet," she said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that a month is not enough time to honor all the women who have taken up leadership roles in the community, in households, or at work.

CWA has prepared an entire calendar of events to commemorate the occasion.

All throughout the month, the community is encouraged to check out local women artists and their masterpieces at the weekly street market at the Garapan Fishing Base starting at 5pm.

On March 2, March 6, March 13, and March 19, the CWA will host financial literacy presentations in schools, from 1pm to 2pm.

On March 3, the community is invited to participate in the national March for H.E.R.S from 2:30pm to 5:30pm that will start at the American Memorial Park.

On March 7, CWA will host a Story Telling Cultural Practice from 9am to 11am at the Carolinian Affairs Office grounds.

On March 8, March 15, and March 22, women will be featured on the KKMP radio station starting at 7:30am to share parenting tips.

An oral health presentation will be held at the Garapan center next to the Carolinian Affairs Office on March 9 starting at 1:30pm.

There will be a coconut oil making class at the Carolinian Affairs Office on March 14, from 8:30am to 11:30am.

The CWA will host a Tupperaiser on March 17 from 9am to 1:30pm at the Carolinian Affairs Office to raise funds for the upcoming women's summit.

On March 24, the CWA will host a mother/daughter night at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, from 5:30pm to 9:30pm.

The highlight of women's month will be the annual Women's Summit that will be held on March 26 and 27, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

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NEW TANK

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas is joined by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Sen. Jude Hoffschneider, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. staff headed by Liz Balajadia, and Maeda Pacific Corp. president Thomas J. Nielsen for the ribbon cutting ceremony on Tinian on Tuesday to unveil the 0.5-million-gallon reservoir tan. The prime contractor for this project was Maeda Pacific Corp.

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Breakfast: 7:00am - 10:00am Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm

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Breakfast Buffet $19 **Sunday Brunch** *Reg.: $29 (Local: $25)* ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $19	Breakfast Buffet $19 ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $19 **Buffet Lunch** *Reg.: $20 (Local: $17)* ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $19	Breakfast Buffet $19 **Buffet Lunch** *Reg.: $20 (Local: $17)* ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $19 ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*

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Last Order: 8:30pm

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Dinner Buffet Location:
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(Local: AD $35/ CH $17)

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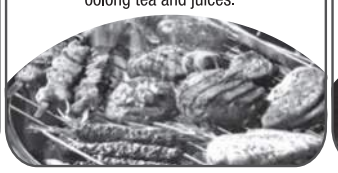

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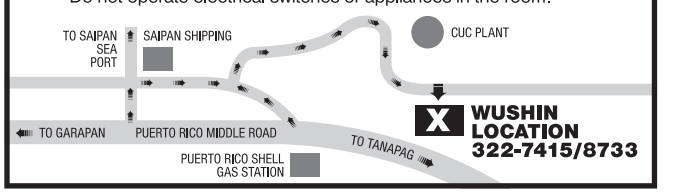

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NMTI Northern Marianas Trades Institute

MVA membership meeting on Mar. 15

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold its semi-annual general membership meeting on Mar. 15, 2018, at Queens Club at Kensington Hotel Saipan at 9:30am. Registration will begin at 9am and the meeting will feature three guest speakers speaking on timely tourism topics.

Rick Egged is the president of the Waikīkī Improvement Association, a private, nonprofit organization focusing on stimulating the business environment of Waikīkī. Egged handles planning, legislative and community matters, working with the public and private sectors on a range of projects and improvements for Waikīkī and will speak on the history of the WIA, and offer his insight on improving the Garapan area, including recommendations on traffic flow, parking, pedestrian access, building standards and coordination between government and private stakeholders.

Jun-ichi Inada is a renowned architect and the managing director and representative partner of WIN Landscaping Planning & Design. Inada will provide an update on the Flower Islands Project of the MVA.

Project manager Mariana Coates of the CNMI-Occupational Safety and Health Administration On-site Consultation Program under the CNMI Department of Labor will explain on-site consultations conducted by its office.

The meeting cost is $25 per person for MVA members and $30 per person for non-members. The cost includes light refreshments and lunch. RSVP should be made by Mar. 12, 2018.

The MVA also welcomes new businesses, agencies and individuals who want to actively participate in the Marianas' top industry as MVA members. Membership is $100 annually and includes detailed visitor statistics each month; opportunities to join promotional events targeting Korea, China, Japan, and other markets; the opportunity to promote products and services on the six language-specific websites of the MVA; and more.

To RSVP, to request a membership application, or for more information, contact MVA community projects administrative assistant Demalynn Pagarao at dpagarao@mymarianas.com or call 664-3200.

'Revenue not issue for Delta'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres clarified Wednesday that the carrier did not see a lack of revenue as the main reason for stopping flights between Saipan and Narita, Japan.

Torres said in an interview that Delta Air Lines, which announced that they would be stopping flights between Japan and Saipan this May 6, 2018, did not see the lack of revenue as an issue for providing flights from Narita.

While recognizing that there is growing concern regarding the Japanese tourism market in the CNMI, which was 10 percent of total CNMI arrivals in 2017, Torres clarified that Delta was actually "revenue-making" here.

"…The whole portfolio for Delta is the reason why they are pulling out, which is important to acknowledge," said Torres of his meeting with several Japanese airlines last week.

"We continue to work with other airlines…and we gave our commitment to all the Japanese agents…to bring back [Japanese] airlines," he said. "We spoke with [the] Commonwealth Ports Authority last week along with [the Marianas Visitors Authority board] to look at what kind of [incentives] we can give airlines to come in from Japan," he added.

Delta announced in early February ending flights to Saipan and Palau from Narita and was reportedly withdrawing from Micronesia to focus on their U.S. mainland route expansion.

Earlier this year, Delta announced ending flights to Guam as well.

Arriola encourages employers to give former addicts a 2nd chance

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former lawyer Joey Arriola, who is now a drug use prevention advocate, encourages employers to consider giving former drug users a second chance by hiring them.

During the weekly Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday, Arriola shared his story with club members and assured them that former addicts are good people who made bad decisions and have since faced the consequences.

Arriola, himself a former drug user, founded the Joey and Friends of Recovery group that works to encourage drug addicts to seek treatment and to encourage young adults to steer clear of drugs.

According to Arriola, former drug users deserve second chances because if not given the chance to better themselves, the possibility of relapsing is pretty great.

Arriola shared that he knows what it is like to seek employment as a former addict and for employers to turn their backs on him because of his past. It never matters how long he had been sober, nor did it matter that he is well educated. All that mattered was that he was convicted of drugs when it came to seeking for a job.

According to Arriola, it took a lot of time and, although the journey to employment was difficult, he was given an opportunity that he will always be grateful for and he wants fellow recovering addicts who have undergone treatment and have been sober to be given the chance that he was given.

Arriola, pleaded guilty in 2010 to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud.

In October 2010 Arriola began serving his 58-month prison term. He was required to pay $625,775 in restitution.

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A STELLAR
Thank You!

As volunteers for the islands' nonprofit pageant and talent group, we are forever grateful for the help and support we received in making the 2018 Miss Marianas Pageant a tremendous success!

To 2018 Miss Marianas Contestants, Eden Conner, Jaiden Santos, Cris Obaldo, Kaysha Aguon, Leisha Deleon Guerrero, Chloe Salvosa, Maricris Zapanta, 2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera and their families and friends for their hard work, dedication and support in helping to provide an opportunity of a lifetime!

To the 2018 Miss Marianas Individual Sponsors for your kindness and support in helping eight amazing women reach for the stars!

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WSR Elementary School

To our 2018 Miss Marianas Official Judges, Tina Esteves, Janet King, Broc Calvo, Sherri Riggs, Kyle Rameriz and the 2018 Miss Marianas Official Tabulators BCM for doing the most difficult jobs for the evening, thank you!

To 2018 Miss Marianas Emcees Romolo Orsini and Monique Sablan, Guest Stars Cielo Long, Isa Long, Nate Ada, Keoni Saralu, Kevin Razon and Dance Team, Jasper Van Der Maas, Aaron Tomokane, Carter Borja, Merryk Zietzke, the MHS Rhythm 'N Harmony Glee Club and Harold Easton for your amazing contributions and performances!

Island Image & Motion, IT&E, KSPN2 Flame Tree Productions, MyCapitures, and Daisuke Yanai Photography for streaming the event live and capturing its finest moments!

2016-17 Miss Marianas Teen Palanga Taimanao and 2016-17 Miss Marianas Peachy Quitugua for exemplary reigns and investing two years in helping to promote a brighter and more beautiful Commonwealth!

To all Stellar Marianas officers, directors, Ernie Molina, Shirley Sablan, Stellar Security Team, all our volunteers and the Fiesta Resort & Spa team, a huge thank you for your time, hard work and assistance in producing a spectacular show!

To 2018 Miss Marianas Title and Main Sponsors, our profound gratitude for your wonderful generosity and vision in celebrating all that is beautiful in our Marianas!

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MCS reinforces strong links with Japan

Mount Carmel School teacher Akemi Ishikawa, back, center, meets with representatives from the Japan consulate to discuss the Japanese Exchange and Teaching program. MCS

Despite the announced withdrawal of the only direct flight between Saipan and Japan, Mount Carmel School is reinforcing its historic links with Japan with a number of cultural exchange programs.

Earlier this year, Japanese teacher Akemi Ishikawa met with representatives from the Japan Consulate to discuss the Japanese Exchange and Teaching program, also known as JET. With JET, the school has hosted several teachers from Japan over the years who complete a teaching practicum alongside Mount Carmel School teachers.

According to school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, the program has been huge success. "It's been great to have our teachers guide and mentor our friends from Japan, but our teachers and students have also learned a lot about Japanese culture and history in the process."

As part of the JET program, the Japan Consulate and the school are also encouraging students to consider applying to colleges in Japan. Ishikawa looks forward to helping students with the process. As she put it, "If any student is interested in studying in Japan, they can come see me; I would love to help them."

Some students who may take her up on the offer are seniors Jonelle Toskas and Erika Mendiola and 8th grade student Taliyah Bocago. The three recently returned from a cultural exchange trip to Japan.

Toskas thoroughly enjoyed the trip. "I really liked learning more about their culture and lifestyle. Eating their food and joining for their daily lives was very insightful."

Mendiola, who is also the school's Student Council president, agreed. "I liked that we got to learn more about the history of the places that we visited and we also learned more about the connection between Saipan and Japan."

That connection is rooted in the island's history before World War II when the Northern Marianas was under the jurisdiction of Japan. During that era, Saipan's economy was developed as the sugar hub of the Pacific and many on island studied at Japanese schools. This connection continued after the war as many Japanese families and tourists visited the islands, at one point making the Japan market the largest source of tourism for the islands.

Mount Carmel School student Jonelle Toskas, far left, takes a selfie with her host family while having dinner during her recent cultural exchange trip to Japan. MCS

For Mount Carmel School, the connection to Japan stems all the way back to the school's opening in 1952, when the first classes were held in the administration building of the old sugar mill. ***(PR)***

Mount Carmel School students Jonelle Toskas, first left, middle row, Erika Mendiola, center, back row, and Taliyah Bocago, center, middle row, have a group photo taken with some of their counterparts on a recent cultural exchange trip to Japan. MCS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
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PORTS POLICE OFFICE RENOVATIONS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-16
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for the renovation of office space for the Ports Police department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The work shall include all materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve a finished product, including but not limited to the items in the scope of work and those shown on the layout.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for the Renovations of the Ports Police Office – Design/Build Services"***. One (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. D-B Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the Ports Police Chief, Juan Dela Cruz, at 237-6500, extension 108 or (670) 483-4535.

The Scope of Work (SOW) and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Total cost for design and construction	60%
2.	Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	15%
3.	Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	15%
4.	Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within NINETY (90) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The contract period for design and construction is stated in the scope of work. Liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: January 29, 2018

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified bidders to submit their bids for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EIGHT (8) A/C UNIT REPLACEMENT, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-18.**

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018**, at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of replacement of eight (8) air-conditioning units located at the Saipan International Air Terminals. Procurement includes removal and disposal of existing units scheduled for replacement.

The Project is being funded by Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for installation of eight units shall be **TWO HUNDRED TEN (210) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages shall be imposed in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** per day if the commissioning of the A/C units is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-26 of the specifications. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Non-Collusive Affidavit" and "Designation of Subcontractors" as contained in the bid documents, with the submission of the Bid.

Bids and contract documents including specifications may be obtained at the Accounting Department Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, beginning February 23, 2018 upon the payment of **FIFTY DOLLARS ($50.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

There is no pre-bid conference for this project. Bidders will be responsible for scheduling a site inspection with CPA.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the bid opening.

Each bid shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are encouraged to use the CD bid schedule form. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either bid bond from a CPA approved listed surety company, a certified check or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: February 20, 2018

ARC marks Hinamatsuri with display of sachiko dolls

Sachiko dolls are on display at the Costa Terrace Restaurant of the Aqua Resort Club in San Roque in celebration of the Japanese tradition Hinamatsuri.

DONNA LIWANAG

The Aqua Resort Club in San Roque invites everyone to join them in celebrating a unique Japanese tradition called *Hinamatsuri* on Saturday, March 3.

Hinamatsuri, also called Girls' Day or Doll's Day, is celebrated in the first week of March of every year in Japan. The tradition is symbolized by a doll called *sachiko* that signifies happiness and a child of bliss. *Sachiko* is passed from one generation to another to ensure good luck and happiness for the recipient.

Aqua Resort Club will be joining this tradition with a display of *sachiko* dolls at its Costa Terrace Restaurant. The restaurant's regular buffet lunch rate is $32 per head but the local rate will only be $19 for a day of celebrating the Japanese Girl's Day.

The highlight of the *Hinamatsuri* lunch special is the Chirashi sushi, which is usually served on happy occasions and at parties in Japan. This is a colorful dish made up of sushi rice, shrimp, eggs, and black beans, with a delicious variety of mixed vegetables and sprinkled toppings on top.

The menu will be a mix of Japanese dishes and other dishes like American and other Asian-inspired dishes. Patrons are in for an extra special treat as delicious desserts to celebrate a girl's sweet tooth will be served.

Lunch is from 11am to 2pm.

March is for lobster lovers

Kevin's The Prime Rib & Seafood Restaurant, also at the Aqua Resort Club, and is known for their steaks and ribs, is adding a new player on the menu for the whole month of March—lobsters.

For the entire March, Kevin's will feature an extra special Lobster Lovers Menu—perfect for seafood lovers and in time for the lenten season.

The Lobster Lovers Menu is an addition to the prime ribs that Kevin's is known for. Steaks will be served on a wagon by the chef, who will be serving guests four different kinds of cuts: Saipan cut, Kevin's cut, Golden Alex Award cut, and Michelle's cut.

According to ARC assistant general manager Sachiko Mafnas, since the restaurant opened in November last year, Kevin's The Prime Rib and Seafood has become the go-to place for people who want quality meat and tastes.

"Last Valentine's Day, the restaurant was full and we were very happy about that. We are also proud to say that the restaurant is honored to be the place that a couple chose for their engagement," she said.

"We look forward to adding more and new exciting things to our menu, in tune with our mission to have something for everyone, where people can expect a nice combination of dishes," she added

For reservations, call (670) 322-1234 or http://www.aquaresort-saipan.com. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

ADVERTISING Feature

KEVIN'S
The Prime Rib & Seafood
Lobster Lovers
Because Kevin's has so much more to offer than just Prime Rib...
Throughout the month of March, Kevin's will feature an extra special Lobster Lovers Menu, perfect for the Lenten Season!
For more information and reservations, please contact us at: +1 (670) 322-1234 or http://www.aquareosrtsaipan.com
ARC AQUA RESORT CLUB

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 43

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At what age does a child become an adult? Try to find a consistent answer in politics

By MARK DAVIS
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

As various high-schoolers have called for stricter gun control to solve mass shootings, some have naturally become favorites in certain corners of social media. A common sentiment from like-minded adults has been that these kids are so bright that we might be governed better by their generation than by the current Congress.

Lovely compliment. But I'm guessing such fawning would not be extended to high schoolers favoring armed teachers over disarming law-abiding gun owners.

But the point is that whether this admiration is genuine or a product of political opportunism, the suggestion is that there are some high-school-age kids out there showing laudable adult wisdom. How curious, then, that so many praising these kids would deny young poeple a basic constitutional right.

Welcome to the gun-buying age debate.

It begins with the basic concept of adulthood. When does it begin? The best answer is the one we know from experience: It varies from person to person, and for some it never really kicks in. But there are many laws that apply only to adults, so we have to figure out when we become one. Any number we choose will be arbitrary, giving too much credit to some and too little to others.

The additional problem is, we have grown uncomfortable with establishing a single moment that opens the doors of adulthood. After the voting age was lowered to 18 in 1971, various states began to roll back their drinking ages from 21, on the logic that anyone who can choose our leaders ought to be able to drink a beer.

There was, of course, a fairly immediate increase in drunken driving deaths, leading to states swinging back to drinking ages of 21. Voting age and virtually every other vestige of legal adulthood remained at 18. If curbing DWI is our only motivator, we can raise the driving age to 30, and death tolls would drop at once. We will never do that, of course, because we would never strip driver's licenses from all Americans in their 20s.

But we gladly tell adults between the ages of 18 to 20 that they cannot drink. And we may be about to tell them they cannot buy a gun, either. The difference is that there is no constitutional right to drink. Prohibition failed, but it was not unconstitutional.

The lunge toward telling law-abiding Americans that they do not have Second Amendment rights until they turn 21 must be rejected on its face. This overreaction is sadly happening with the assistance of some Republicans (like Florida Gov. Rick Scott and maybe even President Donald Trump) who think caving on this core value earns them points as reasonable people. They need to rethink.

We are understandably mortified by the prospect of a

See POLITICS on Next Page

Costs and benefits

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

The term "cost-benefit analysis," once the purview of textbooks in economics and finance, is a common term these days. As the name suggests, it basically means making a decision by weighing its downsides (costs) against its upsides (benefits). This might seem like a childishly simple notion, but the concept is not as simple as it looks.

Entire books are written about this stuff, but I'll just take a cursory swipe at it today. You're not getting the view from an ivory tower; just the scene from my lowly beach chair.

Here's my take on the gig: Many decisions we make in our lives seem to run up against a lopsided structure that's hard to weigh.

On one hand, the benefits of a decision are often obvious, immediate, and limited.

On the other hand, the costs of that decision are often abstract (not obvious), long-term, and potentially unlimited.

Balancing one thing against the other, then, is not easy. We're left trying to compare patterns that are entirely different.

On that note, if ever there was a loaded term in the English language, it's the word "cost."

A simpleton will tell you that "cost" is the price you see on the tag. If a pack of smokes carries a price of $5, well, that's the cost.

It doesn't take too much imagination to consider that the actual impact on your life from smoking is likely to be far greater than the money you spent on your cigs. The cost, in other words, can be a lot bigger than what you spent.

> *Many decisions we make in our lives seem to run up against a lopsided structure that's hard to weigh. On one hand, the benefits of a decision are often obvious, immediate, and limited. On the other hand, the costs of that decision are often abstract (not obvious), long-term, and potentially unlimited.*

An economist, more abstractly, will tell you that "cost" is the "value of the best forsaken alternative." That's a little more enlightening than the simpleton's approach, but the world can still be a murky place.

After all, how can we really measure the value of the best forsaken alternative? Quite often, we can't. Turning back to the smoking thing, let's say we've decided to spark up. We've traded one realm of probabilities (rooted in our entire life's course if we don't smoke) for another realm of probabilities (rooted in our entire life's course if we do smoke). We're swapping invisible arrays of abstraction here. We have changed the cards in the deck, so to speak, but we still don't know what the dealer will give us or when we'll get it.

Let's agree on the premise that smoking isn't good for you. Now, can anybody calculate the cost associated with smoking one, and only one, cigarette?

We can understand the benefit of that one cig. It's the immediate pleasure of having that single smoke. But the cost? I don't think we have any idea.

A doctor would say that's not the point. But an economist would say that it is the entire point; after all, consumption occurs in single-unit increments, so, too, do the related decisions, and the analysis of these increments is what economics, and, incidentally, cost-benefit analysis, is all about.

The gulf here, if it's to be bridged, is often bridged with a bit of intuition. We can call this "judgment" or "wisdom." We all know that certain things are bad for us, even if we acknowledge that actually calculating the harm in everyday decision making is not only impractical, but quite likely impossible. In other words, the objective notion of cost-benefit analysis can get bogged down in its own tire tracks, and the only way out of the ditch is to pull things along with our subjective reckoning.

That might make for nodded heads and polite agreement at a genteel lunch gathering, thus keeping the doctors and the economists on cordial terms, but it won't actually change anything. Fact is, people still fall into the same basic traps today that people fell into a decade ago, a century ago, a millennium ago. We might have fancier words for various situations these days, but the situations themselves remain stubbornly rooted in our nature.

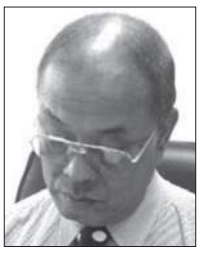
Meanwhile, back in the corporate world, some of the most bone-headed reports I've seen were labeled "cost-benefit analysis," under the presumption that we'd be cowed by the very term itself. When the term got buzzword status it became a pennant for groupthink.

Well, like I said, entire books are written about this stuff. Having offered my beach chair outlook today, I'm ready to break for lunch.

By the way, does anybody know the health cost of having a bag of fries? I'm, uh, asking for a friend.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bloomberg's bombshell



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Though humiliated by the Bloomberg piece about collusion in paradise, we still must reset our agenda on oversight issues we've conveniently neglected for so long. It's a matter of duty to prove maturity in the disposition of matters of state or self-government.

The Bloomberg narrative pertains to dealings between IPI (Best Sunshine), the governor and his siblings. That it involved prominent people naturally attracts attention like dead fish swarmed by tons of flies. Reaction to the story varies, though mostly negative.

Meanwhile, is it a coincidence that oversight issues were raised at the recent Murkowski hearing in the U.S. Senate pertaining to violation of laws, money laundering, and predatory hiring practices dovetailed by the Bloomberg bombshell? Must we put up with the shenanigans of people who brave ignoring the needs of our people?

Humiliating getting slammed once more as the sanctuary of corruption! Shouldn't the reputation of paradise be a matter of pride for those in charge of our ship of state? Or are you too busy fattening maggots with your sugar daddies? The voice of "we the people" would reset buttons this November! *No mas*!

Oversight: The NMI is guilty of violating its own laws exempting a favored business from regulatory review. Ask Arnold Palacios for guideline on this score. All others are subjected to follow the books. It simply ruins policy and investment stability in the NMI.

What about the $400,000 engineered by Biktok Hokog violating constitutional mandate requiring legislative appropriation of all public funds?

The 300 to 500 employees who came into the island to work at a hotel project don't know who their employer is. It involved the violation of federal immigration and labor laws, including local laws. Some are still here searching for final payment, unsuccessfully. It's between them and the firm they work for.

What about the IPI yacht ordered sailed to Hong Kong but pulled over when it reached the Philippine Sea? Weren't people seen dumping blocks of money into duffle bags? Didn't IPI deny ownership, conveniently saying its yacht was hijacked? Really? Did it take measures to track down the blocks of money removed from its ship?

It goes without saying that disposition from those in charge of our ship of state is abnormally loose. Is this how you see it too?

Number one! The fangs of greed among politicos never end and they do it with impunity. First, it's their 80-percent salary increase, then came the final touch in what's known as "annuities." It's done as if it's the only urgent matter of state! And you want Sen. Lisa Murkowski to take front seat how you royally ignore the needs of our people?

Yet, there's the glaring fact of some 14,000 employees literally struggling with poverty income level and below. Do we have cyclops on the hill that can't see beyond their Sears Roebuck ties? Or has greed taken the better part of their black-and-white television? Or is it supposed to be vision? Or is the term anomalous to their often-blurred sights? No wonder they're singing *Joy to the World* even in February!

Sober: Trying to keep sobriety, there's the question of the breadth of the story that exploded like wildfire on various sites on Facebook. Bloggers have varied reactions, mostly negative, of people in the story. It's not the kind of reaction you wish to have when seeking re-election! Raffy and Arnie have got their work cut out for them on this score.

The story fired up the ire of the Torres brothers and Imperial Pacific International, who are talking of filing individual lawsuits. What would be litigated remains to be seen. It's another chapter in the unfolding drama of alleged collusion in paradise.

Shadow: The story obviously triggered stronger distrust in local government. Perception is such that it raises yet a vital query: Who runs the NMI? Is it officials that ascended per legal chance (without a public mandate) or policymakers turned servile lapdogs of wealthy sugar daddies or both? It's a relevant query.

It's a hard question we must ask to see whose hands or filthy fingers are in the pockets of people disposing policies on the hill. A closer look and you'd see the unerring hands of *de facto* policymakers. Elected officials joining fat sugar daddies wind up establishing the elite bunch. It's basically a shadow government of sort. Shouldn't we be concerned about this aspect of policymaking?

Any reasonable minded person could easily see and untangle the myth. The promise to help "we the people" shifts almost entirely to their elite friends. It's the birthplace of negligence, trashing the needs of the people focused on the whims of the elite. How easily they ignore the promise to assist the struggling multitude. Must we live under the whims of a shadow government?

Resetting: As the head winds work up a storm, there's sober suggestion made recently by former U.S. House speaker New Gingrich in his assessment of Trump's first year in office: "Changing the speed of government from the routine, slow, change-avoiding pace of bureaucracy to the high-tempo, innovative, constantly accelerating pace of technology will be the key to success in the next three years."

Must retreat and reset buttons so we see our pathway in our long journey ahead. It's time to focus moving away from the usual bureaucracy to the more entrepreneurial opportunities found in technology. This is one humongous task encompassing every sector of the NMI community.

Our school kids are becoming tech-native where everything at their disposal involves a hi-tech device, e.g., iPhone and iPads. It enables them massive volumes of information daily that includes availability of social media. It's a shift we must adhere to stay in the digital age.

No pity for the fool

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Thoughts During a Fall from an Imaginary Wall

"Mr. Putin help me build that wall."
—a Pres. Reagan inspired tweet deleted from 45's daily doofus dreamscape of dribble.

Of course, I can't accept my nickname 'Trumpty Dumpty'
or those opposed to my border wall which really pumped me
I'm 25% through my electoral college presidential term
still the promised southern border wall plans are not firm.
To make matters worse I'm losing many chief horses and
lots of Trumpery men who after a presidential wall fall
could help put me back together and start all over again.
Then my fellow base voters there is that troublesome
FBI and DOJ who just won't listen and do it my way.
I can't get it right with DACA or thousands of Dreamers
at my rallies I still encourage, "Throw her out!" screamers.
'I'm smart, a real genius' more popular than folk tale creatures
a star, my girlfriends and wife appear in bigly photo features.
So even though I'm failing miserably and falling off the wall
I remain ignorant and obstinate about its construction above all.

No Pity for the Fool in Rule

Update on a poem by Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Pity the nation where people bow down & right wingers praise them.
Pity the country whose leader was elected by the electoral college
and was fined more than $25 million for his fake Trump University.
"I pity the poor immigrant who tramples in the mud."- B. Dylan
then DJT slams the country's open door to Dreamers with a thud.
Pity those slain in schools, churches, theaters, and public malls
with bullets from AR15s and assault rifles bouncing off walls.
Pity the base that refuses to believe the truth about the man they
hold dear and the rest who put up with him during the past year.
Pity the hard working people in the DOJ and FBI who get insulted
and put down by DJT no matter how hard they work and try.
Self-pity gets us nowhere, take some action today but have some
pity for your fellow citizens and for the world at large, all of us.
Pity those dedicated government workers thrown under the bus.
My country, fear for thee, sour land of tweets unplanned and off
the cuff strategy, in the lamentable land of Trumpty Dumpty, DJT.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Guam governor orders 32-hour workweek

I have not worked for the government of Guam since 2012. However, they forgot to take me off their mailing list. They have been sending me announcements that GovGuam's workweek is cut to 32 hours effective Tuesday, March 6. I am so glad I moved to Saipan in 2013.

I just want to say that Saipan is much better at self-government than Guam. Most people do not believe me when I say this, but I can tell you from experience that Saipan is much better at running itself and Guam is having many more problems.

Philip Dauterman, MD
va email

Thank you

For the longest time, the residents of As Mahetok, in Precinct 4, have been complaining about the lack of streetlights in their area. In August 2017, their streetlights concern was brough to my attention. The request to have streetlights was accomplished through my appropriation bill, H.L.B. 20-43, that was signed into law by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Dec. 20, 2017. The bill appropriated $18,000 to have six power poles and streetlights in the area.

On Feb. 23, 2018, the Commonwealth Utilites Corp. started the project in Precinct 4, at the As Mahetok area. The power poles are being erected for the placement of streetlights. The residents' safety has been addressed and can now feel content at night.

I want to extend my heartfelt sincere appreciation and thank you to Department of Public Works Technical Services director Anthony Camacho, CUC executive director Gary Camacho and his linemen crew, to my colleagues who supported my bill, and most especially to Gov. Torres for his immediate action in signing H.L.B. 20-43 into law, which became Saipan Local Law 20-17.

Rep. Alice Igitol
Capital Hill, Saipan

POLITICS

From Page 14

19-year-old shooting up a school, yet we salute and encourage the 19-year-old with even heavier armament if he is deployed with the military. The weapon is not the issue in this comparison, it is the 19-year-old.

Some 19-year-olds should not be able to buy guns. Some 50-year-olds should not be able to buy guns. But if we have decided that the 18th birthday is when the mantle of adulthood applies, there is no argument that can be made for denying those Americans one of our most basic rights.

If there is an unshakable American will to establish a gun-buying threshold of 21, there is only one way to justly make that change: return the voting age to 21 as well.

Since that won't be happening, let's stop punishing responsible, law-abiding young Americans for the evils of a tiny few.

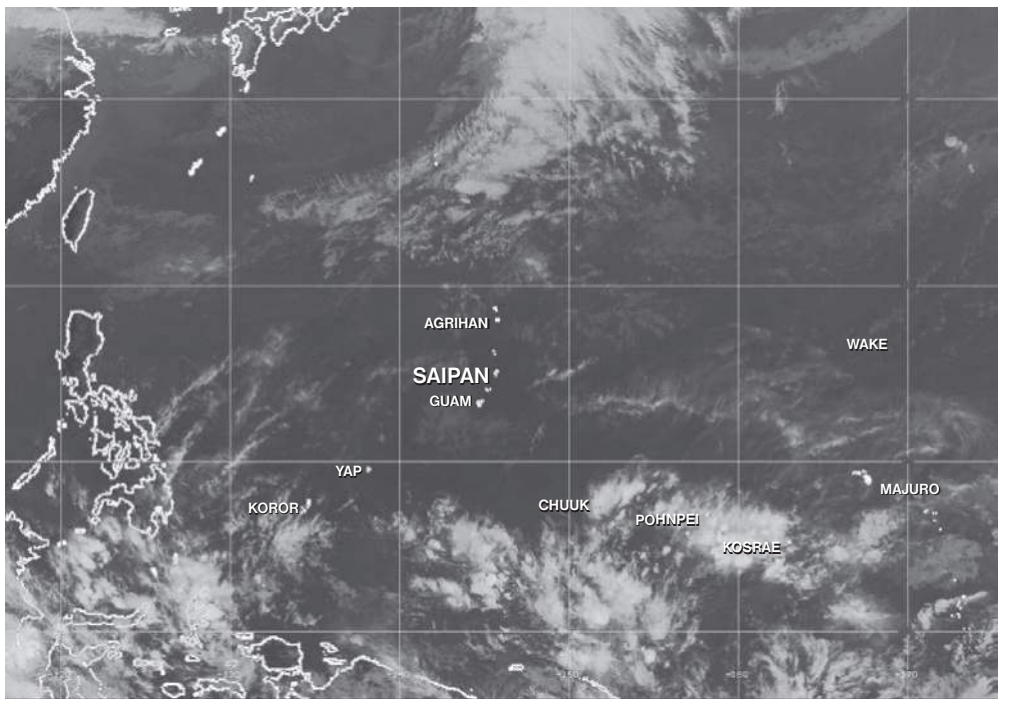
Mark Davis is a radio host and frequent contributor to The Dallas Morning News.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. A slight chance of showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:30 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

There are some light showers this morning, then drying is expected once again. An overall dry pattern is expected through the period. A weak shear line may approach over the weekend which may marginally increase rain chances. Then more dry weather for the middle of next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	75° / 66°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	57° / 34°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 70°
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 72°
London	Snow	34° / 30°
Los Angeles	Rain	59° / 47°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	91° / 61°
Miami	Sunny	81° / 68°
New York	Rain	43° / 37°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	57° / 41°
Paris	Showers	46° / 32°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	57° / 48°
Rome	Rain	59° / 45°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	66° / 39°
San Francisco	Showers	48° / 41°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°
Washington, DC	Windy	46° / 35°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:53 AM	HIGH TIDE	-0.38
8:27 AM	LOW TIDE	2.04
2:21 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.73
7:43 PM	LOW TIDE	2.06

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:33 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:34 am	6:41 pm
Saturday	-	7:21 am	7:38 pm
Sunday	-	8:06 am	8:33 pm
Monday	-	8:49 am	9:26 pm
Tuesday	-	9:32 am	10:18 pm

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

You can't beat something with nothing

The casino is here. Whatever flaws it has, it's here and it's doing more for the people of Saipan than its critics have ever done for anyone but themselves.

Wanting the casino to go away is an insult to the well-being and dignity of *taotao* Marianas. It's an attack and assault on everything good we've experienced directly because of the foresight of our local government and leaders.

Against the whiners and naysayers, farsighted leaders like Ralph Torres and the late Eloy Inos brought a casino to Saipan. Victor Hocog risked his political future to bring us some economic hope in the form of a casino.

I don't think any of our leaders were in love with casinos. I don't think any of them would be foolish enough to think that casinos are a perfect business, or that Imperial Pacific is a perfect company. But they knew that the choice they were facing was casinos or nothing.

If you were starving nearly to death, and someone offered you a decent, nourishing meal, one that would feed you for years, would you turn it down because there's a speck of dirt on it and because the vegetables in it might not be organic and the beef might not be free-range? That's exactly what casino naysayers are doing. They're gleefully focusing on imperfections and lording the casino's every fault over the CNMI people. They should be appreciating and understanding all the real, tangible good that the casino has done for our lives.

Gov. Torres, Lt. Gov. Hocog, and the legislators who stood with them chose between casinos over economic ruin, blackouts, bouncing paychecks, and everything else you might remember from the pre-casino years. They chose our economy over short-term political gain. And they made the right choice.

They didn't follow the whiners constantly repeating that casinos aren't perfect. Our leaders aren't stupid. They know casinos aren't perfect. Nothing in this world is perfect, maybe other than a cup of *tuba* wine at sunset by the Godfathers Beach Bar. No business is perfect. No government is perfect. Even no person is perfect. Instead of seeing imperfection, Ralph Torres, Victor Hocog, Ralph Demapan, and our other legislators and executives chose to improve our lives in real, practical ways.

Thanks to casino revenue, landowners are receiving their decades-delayed compensation. Paychecks are on time. Streets are being cleaned, parks are being renovated, and streetlights are being installed. CHC is likely to receive more funding. And more than ever, our local young people have a gamut of jobs to choose from, right here on Saipan.

Some people might not like how good things are. They keep attacking the casino and demand that we hamstring it and shut it down, doing away with all the good it's brought us.

Maybe those critics don't need jobs. Maybe if I was an independently wealthy crepe chef I also wouldn't care about Saipan's economy. For those of us who can't make a living cooking crepes on the beach, what jobs are there on Saipan other than what the casino will bring?

It's the casino revenue that pays for more frequent police patrols in my village. It's the casino's CSR effort that conducts beach cleanups. And it's the casino I can thank for no longer worrying about whether my grandchildren can find jobs here on Saipan.

It's easy to attack the casino. It's not perfect. Has any business ever been perfect? I'm waiting for you to name one.

What is the critics' alternate proposal, if we do away with the casino? Who is going to pay license fees and taxes and hire our kids if not the casino? I'm not sure how many people can find employment as beachside pancake-makers but it can't be too many.

You want a better industry than a casino on Saipan? What better industry? Where is it? Do you see Google or Apple or Snapchat knocking on our doors to set up their next headquarters here? How many failed proposals have there been? I'm sorry. We're a tiny remote island. It won't happen.

Maybe we've all been raised to believe that as Saipanese we're special and deserve the best. And in some ways we do. But as far as major corporations coming to set up shop here? C'mon. There is no "better" industry available for Saipan, unless someone still has the phone number of that monorail guy.

So the choice is casino or nothing. The choice is casino or empty streets, abandoned hotels, delayed paydays, unpaid land compensation, austerity, and layoffs. Nothing in your belly, nothing in your bank account, nothing in your children's futures.

Maybe the memory of 2005-2010 is a little too distant for some of the newcomers railing against the casino. You might want to ask any of us locals who remember how tough it was. That was what we got before the casino, and what we'd have without it. Nothing.

You can't beat something with nothing.

Juan Diego C. Blanco
As Lito, Saipan

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-18-2011

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Submission /Closing Date: March 29, 2018 Time: 3:00 p.m.

For: Local Public Relation and Media Services

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority, Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building, Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **February 26, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by **March 29, 2018**, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at+1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **March 29, 2018.**

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on March 15, 2018.**

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
AIRPORT GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (AGIS) SURVEY SERVICES
BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-18 (AIP Pending)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Airports Geographical Information Systems (AGIS) Services for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

These services are being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and CPA. This service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 16, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Capability to perform all or most aspects of the services with a minimum of three (3) years' experience with AGIS and Airport Improvement Programs. **(WEIGHT 30)**
2. Ability to implement an AGIS Obstruction Survey and Airport Airspace Analysis. **(WEIGHT 20)**
3. Key personnel's professional background and successful relevant experience in AGIS projects comparable to the proposed services. **(WEIGHT 20)**
4. Demonstrated ability to meet AGIS standards, NGS requirements, and Airport Master Plan standards. **(WEIGHT 10)**
5. Ability to complete services within schedule without having major extensions, cost escalations, overruns, or disputed claims; **(WEIGHT 10)**
6. Quality of projects previously undertaken that are comparable to proposed services. **(WEIGHT 10)**

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf format of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 1, 2018

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282
Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of the Minutes
  1. January 2 and 12, 2018 Regular Board Meetings
  2. January 31, 2018 Operations Committee Meeting
  3. February 1, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
- E. Correspondence

II. Public Comments**

III. Management Reports
- A. Executive Director
  1. Report on Travel from January 14 – 28, 2018
- B. Deputy Executive Director
- C. Chief Financial Officer
- D. Legal Counsel

IV. Old Business
- A. Update on CHCC Disputed Billings
- B. Listing of Non-Essential Government Agencies and All Accounts in Arrears
- C. Safety Protocol and List of Summary of the Different Working Environments and terrains that employees are exposed to and a list of compatible PPE's that are necessary for each employee.
- D. Student Internship Program (Ensure to Include Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities)

V. New Business
- A. FY 19 Budget
- B. Update on the Status of CUC Personnel Sent to Puerto Rico
- C. Listing of All Memorandum of Understandings and Memorandum of Agreements - Government and Non-Government Entities

VI. Miscellaneous

VII. Executive Session***
(Consultation with Legal Counsel Re Personnel and Other Matters)

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

MARCH IS RED CROSS MONTH: HOW TO HELP

Be a hero to someone in need

It's Red Cross Month and the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is asking people throughout the Commonwealth to become a hero by getting trained, becoming a volunteer, or making a donation to #help1family on Giving Day, March 28.

"The Red Cross is powered by our volunteer heroes who give of their time, talents and compassion to fulfill our vital humanitarian mission of preventing and alleviating human suffering," said Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, board chair. "They're *familia*, neighbors, or stranger from our community, who teach first aid and CPR classes, who respond to a fire in Garapan at 2am, who support those in need at what may be the worst time in their lives. We honor them during Red Cross Month and ask you to consider joining us and making a difference."

This year the Red Cross salutes all the heroes who make a difference in their communities by:

■ Volunteering to help people impacted by a disaster

■ Taking a first aid, CPR, or lifeguarding class to help in an emergency

■ Providing comfort to a member of the military, a veteran or their family

Home fires are the most common disasters that the Red Cross responds to each year. Here in the CNMI, it responded to nine home fires and helped nearly 40 individuals in the last year.

In addition, it has taught over 400 students on the importance of disaster awareness and preparedness.

Volunteers drop everything—at any time of the day or night—to help people who have lost everything.

"These are the moments when I can witness strangers helping other strangers in their greatest moments of need," said Red Cross disaster program manager Juan Diego Tenoro.

What we do

The Red Cross has been helping people in need for more than 130 years. And much of our work is accomplished through the work of our volunteers. The Red Cross:

■ Responds to nearly 64,000 disasters across the country, providing hope and comfort to people in need.

■ Trains and provides information to nearly 5.9 million people in first aid, water safety and other skills that help save lives.

■ Collects nearly 4.9 million units of blood from more than 2.8 million volunteer donors to meet the needs of patients at hospitals and transfusion centers across the country.

■ Provides nearly 391,000 support services to military members, veterans and their families.

■ Helps more than 181 million people outside the U.S. through disaster management and disease prevention efforts.

Giving day

The Red Cross is asking everyone to support people impacted by disasters and #help1family on Giving Day, March 28. Your donation can help provide hope and urgent relief such as food, blankets and other essentials to people who need it most.

Giving Day is a 24-hour fundraising campaign supporting the work of the Red Cross, helping people across the country in need of emergency assistance. Donate now by visiting redcross.org/givingday.

During March, be a hero and join the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross. More information is available on how you can help at 234-3459 or www.redcross.org/nmi. ***(PR)***

Transpac walks for Red Cross

The Transpac group of companies will again be a premier sponsor for this year's American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Walkathon.

"We are grateful that the Coke-Subway-Foremost-Scoops-Glimpses group of companies will be supporting our 'Walk for the Red' event," said Jennifer Deleon Guerrero, co-chair of the 2018 Walkathon. "Transpac has a long history of helping our community, particularly with events focused on fitness."

This year's walkathon will take place on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian on Saturday, April 14. In addition to the 10K course there will be 5K and Headstart 2K courses for the younger children. A $20 donation to the Red Cross provides entry to the walk, an event T-shirt, prizes and refreshments from Coca-Cola, Subway, and Foremost.

The Red Cross Walkathon is the largest walking event in Micronesia with more than 3,000 participants.

Prizes will be given out to schools with the most number of walkers and to those individuals and schools that raise the most funds.

For more information about the 32nd Annual Walkathon or how to volunteer, call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Illusionist in Sunday radio program

This Sunday's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" will feature award-winning illusionist Leon Etinne, star of the hit show "Magic Rocks!" at SandCastle Saipan.

This "America's Got Talent" finalist is in partnership with Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in the ongoing 2018 Library Magic Camp for children and adults during the month of March.

By attending magic camp, participants will receive personal instruction from Etienne and learn to perform amazing magic tricks.

"Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program is sponsored the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. It airs each Sunday from 2pm to 2:30pm on Power 99, with host Catherine R. Perry. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CPA-RFP-004-18

JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR NON-RESTRICTED AREAS SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & COMMUTER TERMINAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Janitorial Services for the Saipan International Airport and Commuter Terminal Non-Restricted Areas.

The proposal package containing the scope of work and other considerations of the proposal is available beginning February 23, 2018 from 0800 hours a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Accounting Department Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, at the Saipan International Airport upon the payment of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00). This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Interested proposers must submit one original and three copies of their sealed proposal before 4:00 p.m., March 23, 2018, to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposals shall be sealed and marked: ***"Janitorial Services for non-restricted areas, Saipan International Airport & Commuter Terminal, Project No. CPA-RFP-004-18" CONFIDENTIAL.***

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Eliceo D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the
CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: March 2, 2018

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality - Division of Coastal Resources Management will be hosting a **Spatial Planning Workshop on Thursday, March 8th from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Hyatt Regency.**

Using eBeam technology, we will be able to draw potential dedicated-use areas throughout the Lagoon and outer reef areas. This exercise follows user mapping surveys conducted in 2016 and recommendations proposed in the 2017 update to the Saipan Lagoon Use Management Plan (SLUMP). We thank you for your past participation in these efforts and invite you to share your input as we visualize a detailed spatial plan to reduce conflict and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all Lagoon users.

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Northrop, Coastal Planner, at 670-664-8510 or enorthrop@dcrm.gov.mp. RSVPs are appreciated.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-18-IFB-012

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A FRONT MOWER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Supply and Delivery of a Front Mower to the Department of Public Works**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 23, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a P**re-bid Conference** for this project on **March 13, 2018, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 20, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-18-IFB-012"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **9:00 a.m. local time March 26, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **9:00 a.m. local time, March 26, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 26, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 4, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 9, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 26, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.
Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

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-Ocean Vista Resort
-Office of Indigenous Affairs
-OKEANOS MARIANAS
-Pacific Development Inc.
-Palau Community
-Pacific Trading Co.
-Philippine Goods
-Saipan Adventure
-Saipan Aqua World
-Saipan Chinese News
-Saipan Mayor's Office
-Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation
-Saipan Ocean View Hotel
-Saipan Tribune
-Sakura Marine Sports
-Simiyan Maniana-ta
-Samoa/Tonga/Fiji Community
-Seahorse
-Sunset Cruisers
-Tao Tao Marianas
-Tim Bellas
-Tinian Legislative Delegation & Leadership
-Tiuel Belau Dancers
-Tinian Mayor's Office
-UR Tents/Ed's Bonita Park
-Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council
-Frances Sablan
-Stanley Taisacan

Business

Dick's and Walmart take harder line against guns

NEW YORK (AP)—Dick's Sporting Goods and Walmart took steps Wednesday to restrict gun sales, adding two retail heavyweights to the growing rift between corporate America and the gun lobby.

Dick's said it will immediately stop selling assault-style rifles and ban the sale of all guns to anyone under 21. Its CEO took on the National Rifle Association by demanding tougher gun laws after the massacre in Florida.

Walmart, the nation's largest retailer, followed late Wednesday saying it will no longer sell firearms and ammunition to people younger than 21. It had stopped selling AR-15s and other semi-automatic weapons in 2015, citing weak sales.

The announcements from the major national retailers came as students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, returned to class for the first time since a teenager killed 17 students and educators with an AR-15 rifle two weeks ago.

"When we saw what the kids were going through and the grief of the parents and the kids who were killed in Parkland, we felt we needed to do something," Dick's Chairman and CEO Ed Stack said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Several major corporations, including MetLife, Hertz and Delta Air Lines, have cut ties with the NRA since the Florida tragedy. None of them were retailers who sold guns.

Sporting goods chain Bass Pro Shops, which owns Cabela's, didn't respond to requests for comment. Nor did the Outdoor Retail Association or Gander Outdoors.

The announcements from Dick's and Walmart drew hundreds of thousands of responses for and against the moves on the companies' social media accounts.

Dick Sporting Goods had cut off sales of assault-style weapons after the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. But sales had resumed at its smaller chain of Field & Stream stores, which consisted of 35 outlets in 16 states as of October.

On Wednesday, Stack said that would end, and he called on lawmakers to act now.

He urged them to ban assault-style firearms, bump stocks and high-capacity magazines and raise the minimum age to buy firearms to 21. He said universal background checks should be required, and there should be a complete database of those banned from buying firearms. He also called for the closing of the private sale and gun show loophole that enables purchasers to escape background checks.

"We support and respect the Second Amendment, and we recognize and appreciate that the vast majority of gun owners in this country are responsible, law-abiding citizens," Stack said in a letter. "But we have to help solve the problem that's in front of us. Gun violence is an epidemic that's taking the lives of too many people, including the brightest hope for the future of America —our kids."

Walmart said it was also removing items from its website that resemble assault-style rifles, including airsoft guns and toys. "Our heritage as a company has always been in serving sportsmen and hunters, and we will continue to do so in a responsible way," Walmart said.

US economic growth revised down slightly to 2.5 pct. in Q4

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. economic growth was revised down slightly to a still-solid 2.5 percent annual rate in the final three months of last year, as business spent less on investment and restocking shelves than the government had previously estimated.

The fourth quarter advance in the gross domestic product, the economy's total output of goods and services, followed even faster increases of 3.1 percent at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in the second quarter and 3.2 percent in the third quarter, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday.

Consumer spending raced ahead at the fastest pace since the spring of 2016, although some of the components such as purchases of furniture and clothing were revised lower. However, these declines were offset by stronger spending on services such as utility bills.

Factors in the downward revision included a greater slowdown by businesses in spending to build up their stockpiles and weaker business investment on structures and intellectual property. The various small revisions pulled down GDP from the initial estimate of 2.6 percent growth.

Economists said the small changes were unlikely to change the upbeat assessment of the economy that Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell delivered to Congress on Tuesday.

"The Fed already knew that the economy had healthy momentum to end 2017 so this does little to change its thinking on the outlook," said Leslie Preston, senior economist at TD Economics.

For the year, GDP rose 2.3 percent, a significant pickup from 1.5 percent in 2016, which had been the slowest annual growth rate since the economy contracted in the recession year of 2009.

President Donald Trump has often pointed to the pickup in growth last year as evidence that his economic program of tax cuts, deregulation and stronger enforcement of trade deals was working. During the campaign, Trump promised to double growth, which has averaged a lackluster 2.2 percent annual average since the recession ended in mid-2009. The current expansion is now in its ninth year, making it the third longest on records going back to the 1850s, but it has also been the slowest in the post-World War II period.

Trump has said he expects to achieve GDP growth of 4 percent or better, although his new budget is based on an expectation that the economy will expand at average annual rates of 3 percent over the next decade. The 3 percent GDP forecast has been challenged as overly optimistic by private forecasters who point to the retirements of the baby boom generation and lagging productivity as factors likely to constrain GDP growth.

Many forecasters have boosted their expectation for growth this year and next year, based on the boost they believe will come from the $1.5 trillion tax cut package Trump pushed through Congress in December and the $300 billion in extra government spending added to this year and next year by a budget deal Congress approved in January.

Analysts think the increased stimulus will help lift GDP to 2.5 percent growth this year and next year. But analysts think those gains will fade after 2019, as the economy is held back by higher budget deficits and rising interest rates engineered by a Federal Reserve that will be trying to slow the economy to make sure inflation does not get out of control.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 18-DLNR/DFW-062

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 22, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"BOAT CHARTER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SIAPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/FACILITY-006

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 02, 2018 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES FACILITIES-COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED–UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/HOSPITAL-007

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 02, 2018 TIME: 9:00AM

"MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE – HOSPITAL – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 18-007

Construction of an Agricultural Equipment Facility for the NMC-CREES Research Station, Tinian

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the construction of a "Agricultural Equipment Facility" for CREES Station, Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing FRIDAY, March 2nd, 2018 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., March 22, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-007 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2017-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 18-005

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW DISTANCE LEARNING NETWORK AND TELEMEDICINE EQUIPMENT

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW DISTANCE LEARNING NETWORK AND TELEMEDICINE EQUIPMENT.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing FRIDAY, MARCH 02, 2018 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., APRIL 02, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-003 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for in part by Federal Funds through the USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program.

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

Nation

Teacher barricades himself in class, fires gun; no one hurt

ATLANTA (AP)—A social studies teacher barricaded himself inside a classroom at a Georgia high school on Wednesday and fired a handgun, sending students running outside or hunkering down in darkened gym locker rooms, authorities said.

No Dalton High School students were in the classroom when the teacher fired the weapon, and despite the chaotic lockdown and evacuation, the only injury was a student who hurt her ankle running away.

AP

This undated photo provided by the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office shows Jesse Randal Davidson.

It wasn't immediately clear why the teacher, 53-year-old Jesse Randal Davidson, had the gun. Under questioning by detectives, he refused to discuss what led to the shooting.

The gunfire erupted with a nation on edge two weeks after a Florida school shooting left 17 students and faculty dead and ignited a new debate over gun control in America. Within minutes of the Dalton shooting, students there took to social media, calling for restricting gun rights. In the afternoon, President Donald Trump, who has advocated for arming teachers, convened a bipartisan group of lawmakers at the White House to address gun violence.

The teacher was taken into custody without incident after a 30- to 45-minute standoff with officers, police spokesman Bruce Frazier said. A teacher since 2004, Davidson also serves as the play-by-play announcer for the high school's football team.

Police noted that Davidson didn't appear to want to hurt the students or faculty. He fired the gun at an exterior window when the principal tried to enter the classroom.

"I don't know whether he was just firing the gun off to let people know to back off or what," Frazier said.

The shooting happened about 11:30 a.m. during Davidson's planning period. At first, students tried to get into the classroom, but they couldn't. The students told the principal, who tried to enter.

"I didn't get the door open very far, but he slammed the door and hollered 'Go away, don't come in here.' He had some nonsensical noises that were made as well," Principal Steve Bartoo said.

White House communications director Hope Hicks resigning

WASHINGTON (AP)—White House communications director Hope Hicks, one of President Donald Trump's most trusted and longest-serving aides, abruptly announced her resignation Wednesday, leaving a void around a president who values loyalty and affirmation.

The departure of Hicks, who worked as a one-woman communications shop during his campaign, came as a surprise to most in the White House—and cast a pall over the West Wing at a trying time for the president. It leaves Trump increasingly without support of the familiar aides who surrounded him during his campaign, and marks the latest in a string of high-level departures in the administration's second year.

Hicks, 29, had a seemingly untouchable role in the West Wing, often viewed more as a surrogate daughter than a staffer. Perhaps most importantly, she served as Trump's glamorous shield and validator, always ready to provide "Mr. Trump" with a smiling dose of positive reinforcement, and controlling reporters' access. She was the fourth person to occupy the position since the president was sworn in, as the Trump White House has set modern records for staff turnover.

In a statement, Trump praised Hicks for her work over the last three years, saying he "will miss having her by my side." Hicks informed Trump of her decision Wednesday, a White House official said.

Hicks, who occupied the desk closest to the Oval Office in the West Wing, has been a central participant in or witness to nearly every milestone and controversy of the Trump campaign and White House. She began her White House tenure as director of strategic communications—a title that only partly captured her more expansive role as the president's gatekeeper to the press.

The news comes a day after Hicks was interviewed for nine hours by the House panel investigating Russia interference in the 2016 election and contact between Trump's campaign and Russia.

In public spat, Trump taunts Sessions, AG doesn't keep quiet

WASHINGTON (AP)—Harshly criticized yet again by his boss, Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Wednesday abandoned his usual stony silence and pushed back against President Donald Trump for saying Sessions' response to Republican complaints about the FBI was "disgraceful."

Sessions gave no suggestion he would step down in light of the charge made on Twitter and insisted he would "continue to discharge my duties with integrity and honor."

Trump's latest tirade stems from a comment Sessions made Tuesday, when he suggested the Justice Department's inspector general will evaluate whether prosecutors and FBI agents wrongly obtained a warrant under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to monitor the communications of a onetime Trump campaign associate. Sessions had asked the watchdog office to review the complaints in response to pressure from congressional Republicans, who, like Trump, have fumed about what they believe to be bias within the FBI.

Trump tweeted: "Why is A.G. Jeff Sessions asking the Inspector General to investigate potentially massive FISA abuse. Will take forever, has no prosecutorial power and already late with reports on Comey etc. Isn't the I.G. an Obama guy? Why not use Justice Department lawyers? DISGRACEFUL!"

Sessions answered hours later, saying his department had taken the appropriate step and "will continue to do its work in a fair and impartial manner according to the law and Constitution."

It was hardly the first time the president has aired his gripes against Session over the Russia probe. The former Alabama senator, an early supporter of Trump's candidacy, has endured a year's worth of Trump's wrath in order to hold onto the job he had long desired. But even for Trump, who once called the attorney general "beleaguered," Wednesday's volley elevated the rhetoric to a new level.

The exchange comes at a time of heightened tension between the Justice Department and the White House, which is mired in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Trump campaign ties to Russia and possible obstruction of justice. Trump has long viewed Sessions' decision to step aside from that investigation as leading to Mueller's appointment.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

As of March 2, 2018
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Seahorse Inc. Saipan	2/15/2018 SS/LR-98-X-244	Marine Sports Jet Ski	North of Hyatt Regency Hotel	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 2/16/2018
2. Seahorse Inc. Saipan	2/15/2018 SLRm-98-X-19	Marine Sports Banana Boat	North of Hyatt Regency Hotel	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 2/16/2018
3. CNMI United Investment Corporation, Inc.	2/14/2018 SS-2018-X-038	Land Clearing	Garapan, Fishing Base	Shorelines	Approved* 2/16/2018
4. Micronesian Land Corp. dba Saipan Hopping Tour	2/20/2018 SPI-2018-X-039	Drydock Santa Rosa II	Able Dock, Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 2/23/2018
5. MP Holdings, LLC	2/20/2018 SMS-2017-X-098 Amendment 2018-2	Temporary Staging	Chalan LauLau Area	Major Siting-Amendment	Under Review*
6. RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction	2/22/2018 SSCHm-2018-X-040	S-10 Lift Station Renovation	Beach Road (Route 33) Garapan	Minor	Approved* 2/23/2018
7. Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA)	2/22/2018 SPI-2018-X-041	Construction & Operation of the New Administrative bldg. & Maintenance Facility	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved*
8. Blue Palms Scuba Service	2/23/2018 RLRm-2018-X-0126	Marine Sports SCUBA	Rota Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 2/23/2018
9. Rota Scuba Center	2/23/2018 RLRm-2018-X-0129	Marine Sports SCUBA	Rota Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 2/23/2018
10. Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc.	2/27/2018 SPI-2018-X-042	Drydock MV Yuri II	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved 3/1/2018
11. John DLG. Sablan	2/28/2018 SPI-2018-X-043	Drydock	Lower Base M/V Gloria II	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 3/1/2018
12. Wondersea Saipan, Inc.	2/28/2018 S/TLRm-2002-X-31	Marine Sports SCUBA	All Dive Sites, Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 3/1/2018

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations require all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

World

Australian amnesty nets 57,000 firearms and rocket launcher

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—More than 57,000 illegal firearms including a rocket launcher and machine guns were handed in during a recent Australian amnesty in which gun owners could surrender such weapons without penalty.

The government and some gun policy analysts were surprised by the large number of weapons that were surrendered in the first nationwide amnesty since 1996, when a lone gunman killed 35 people in Tasmania state and galvanized popular support for tough national gun controls.

A virtual ban on private ownership of semi-automatic rifles and a government-funded gun buyback cut the size of Australia's civilian arsenal by almost a third.

The government said Thursday the three-month amnesty that ended in September collected 57, 324 firearms, including almost 2,500 semi-automatic and fully-automatic guns—the rapid-fire categories particularly targeted after the 1996 Port Arthur massacre.

"It was a very, very good result," Law Enforcement Minister Angus Taylor told The Associated Press.

"This is another step in the process of making sure that we keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and gangs, and we keep Australians safe and secure," he added.

Taylor declined to comment on whether the United States and other countries should follow Australia's example after the recent Florida high school shooting that killed 17 people.

"I'm not going to give advice to other countries. This is working for us," Taylor said, referring to national gun controls.

Before the amnesty, Sydney University gun policy analyst Philip Alpers predicted it would only collect "rubbish guns" that were not valued by legitimate gun owners or criminals.

"It's a resounding success. I think it exceeded everybody's expectations. I was astonished," Alpers said on Thursday.

Key to the success over several state-based amnesties that have occurred since the 1996 massacre was that licensed gun dealers had agreed to act as collection points. In previous amnesties, the guns have had to be surrendered at police stations.

The amnesty report said a rocket launcher had been handed into a gun dealer rather than police. The dealer said he understood it had been found in a local garbage dump in Queensland state.

Alpers said the surrender now of semi-automatic and automatic weapons that had been hidden in 1996 when they were banned suggested Australia's mindset on guns was shifting and that controls had gained popularity over two decades.

Most illegal guns in Australia are considered to be in the gray market, meaning they were not registered or surrendered as they should have been, but are not considered black market guns owned for the purpose of crime.

The danger of those markets merging became obvious in 2014 when a man who professed support for the Islamic State group took hostages in a Sydney cafe armed with a gray market shotgun.

The gunman and two hostages were killed in a shootout with police.

A government inquiry into the siege recommended the government deal with illegal guns in the community.

Russia and Syria clash with US and West on Syria cease-fire

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Russia and Syria clashed with the U.S. and its Western allies Wednesday over responsibility for the failure of a cease-fire to take hold in Syria as the U.N. said humanitarian convoys are ready to head to 10 locations including besieged eastern Ghouta near the capital Damascus.

The contentious Security Council meeting four days after members adopted a resolution demanding a cease-fire "without delay" for at least 30 days throughout Syria to deliver humanitarian aid and evacuate the critically ill and wounded reflected frustration and anger on both sides at the continued fighting and bombing.

U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock asked council members: "When will your resolution be implemented?" And U.N. political chief Jeffrey Feltman urged all 193 U.N. member states "to use their influence with the parties to ensure implementation of the cessation of hostilities."

Lowcock said convoys are ready to go to 10 besieged and hard-to-reach locations including 45 trucks with aid for 90,000 people in Douma in eastern Ghouta. He said that since Feb. 18 over 580 people are reported to have been killed and well over 1,000 injured in air and ground strikes in the Damascus, home to about 400,000 people.

Lowcock also warned that delivery of aid across conflict lines to millions of people in besieged and hard-to-reach areas throughout Syria "has totally collapsed."

"Unless this changes," he declared, "we will soon see even more people dying from starvation and disease than from the bombing and the shelling."

Russia ordered a five-hour daily humanitarian pause starting Tuesday to allow civilians to exit eastern Ghouta. But no civilians have left, and no humanitarian aid has entered.

Russia asked council members to support a presidential statement asking all countries to ensure that armed groups support the Russian humanitarian corridors. The U.S., supported by other Western nations, objected because the statement didn't reflect the resolution's demands, according to diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity because consultations were private.

Lowcock reiterated the International Committee of the Red Cross' assessment that it is impossible to deliver humanitarian aid in five hours, noting that it often takes convoys with all the required clearances a day just to get through checkpoints.

Kelley Currie, the U.S. ambassador for economic and social affairs, called a five-hour pause "cynical, callous, and in flagrant defiance of the demands" for a cessation of hostilities "for at least 30 days—every day, all day."

"Russia does not get to unilaterally rewrite the terms of the resolution they negotiated and they sat here and voted for," she said.

"Russia, Iran and the Assad regime are not even trying to hide their intentions," Currie told the council. "They are asking civilians to leave eastern Ghouta on the false premise that they can then attack anyone left in the area as much as they would like."

Sweden's deputy ambassador Carl Skau, speaking on behalf of resolution sponsors Sweden and Kuwait, also declared: "A five-hour cease-fire does not meet the requirements of the resolution."

Fellow Nobel laureates blame Suu Kyi for Rohingya crisis

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Three peace prize laureates who met with Rohingya Muslims in sprawling refugee camps accused fellow Nobel recipient Aung San Suu Kyi and Myanmar's military of committing genocide in the deadly violence that forced hundreds of thousands to flee into Bangladesh.

Suu Kyi does not oversee her country's military or its security operations that set off the refugee exodus, but the laureates said as Myanmar's leader, she cannot avoid responsibility.

Tawakkol Karman of Yemen urged Suu Kyi to "wake up" or "face prosecution," and Northern Ireland's Mairead Maguire and Iran's Shirin Ebadi promised to work to bring those responsible to justice. The laureates spoke at a news conference in Dhaka on Wednesday during their weeklong trip to Bangladesh to visit the camps where the Rohingya are living.

All three were emotionally charged as they unanimously called the violence against Rohingya in Myanmar "genocide."

"There is no other definition, it is genocide, genocide against innocent people," Karman said. "Millions of people (have) been displaced from their cities, women (have) been raped, all the women, we met like 100 women, all of them (have) been raped."

She said they were overwhelmed as they talked to the children.

"Most of the children we met ... fled to Bangladesh without their families. Their fathers, their mothers (have) been killed, been murdered," Karman said.

Karman, one of three recipients of the 2011 prize for women's rights advocacy, said Suu Kyi should not be silent.

"She did not tell the truth to the world. She should stop her silence, she should wake up and stop this genocide," she said.

Some 700,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since late August, when Myanmar's military retaliated for deadly attacks by a Rohingya insurgent group. Myanmar's government has denied atrocities and says the military was conducting "clearance operations" against terrorists. Suu Kyi has spoken generally about her nation making progress toward peace but has not mentioned the Rohingya, who are not recognized by Myanmar's government.

Maguire, who co-founded a Northern Ireland peace group and shared the 1976 prize, said the three laureates were looking for legal options to ensure justice. "We plan to take Myanmar's government to the International Court of Justice," she said.

Ebadi, who was Iran's first female judge and the 2003 Nobel laureate, blasted her native country and other Middle Eastern nations for not doing enough for the Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic group long persecuted in Buddhist-majority Myanmar.

Ebadi said Myanmar was not a party to the statute that set up the ICC but could be referred to the court by the U.N. Security Council.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

†Frances Faibar Rebuenog

JUNE 10, 1969 - FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Si Yu'us Ma'ase Thank You Olomwaay

The tears have dried, the flowers have withered, but your presence with us at the daily Eucharistic Celebrations, the nightly rosaries, the funeral services of our beloved has given us the courage to endure the pain and our great loss. Because of her passing, a new life has begun. Her new life with her Creator, and our new life – a life in which we have created new acquaintances, making new friends and developing a stronger bond with families. Because of these, we are forever grateful for the memories you have instilled in us.

A beautiful and meaningful service for my wife †Frances would not have been possible without the unselfish help and assistance of families and friends. Our sincerest appreciation to Fr Jesse Reyes for his prayers and to Fr. Jason Granado for presiding over the Mass of Christian Burial. Si Yu'us Ma'ase to Mona Rebuenog for leading us with the Holy Rosary each evening.

We are forever grateful to her colleagues at the Department of Corrections and Department of Public Safety for the honors bestowed to her at the memorial service. Thank you to Ms. Georgia Cabrera and Commissioner Robert DeLeon Guerrero for their support and assistance.

Our gratitude to the Medical Referral office and staff for the assistance and compassion extended to to our beloved.

To all – all who have helped in one way or another - Thank you.
May The Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord shine His face upon all of us and give us peace.

With All Our Love and Prayers,

David DeLeon Guerrero, Children and family

In Loving Memory Of

KEVIN IGHARYANG CEPEDA ALDAN JR.

Born to life: February 08, 2001
Called to Eternal life: February 26, 2018

In his new life he now joins his:

Maternal Grandparents: †Albert Manibusan Cepeda and
†Victoria Borja Cepeda
Auntie: †Thelma Calantog

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Parents: **Kevin Litulumar Aldan and**
Margarette Cepeda Aldan

Siblings: **Alberta** C. Aldan and Jerome Mangarero
Kelanie C. Aldan
Margarette Michelle C. Aldan and John David Reyes
Miracle Joy C. Aldan

Paternal Grandparents: Lucio Crisostimo Aldan and
Concepcion Litulumar Aldan
Godparents: Wilbur and Julia Ada
Aunts and Uncles: Julia/Wilbur Ada and Children
Kenn Aldan and Children
Karen/Kent Kalen and Children
Katherine/Benito Aguon and Children
Joanne Olivia Aldan/John Mario and Children
Trinidad/Jack DelaCruz and Children
Rebecca/Paul Camacho and Children
Joe/Sally Cepeda and Children
Raymond/Agnes Cepeda and Children
†Thelma/Wilfredo Calantog and Children

He will also be missed by his numerous relatives and friends.

Mass of Intentions for the repose of his soul is being celebrated at 11:45 am at Kristo Rai Church. Nightly Rosary is being recited at The Family residence in Chinatown.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, March 06, 2018.
His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to Kristo Rai Church. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by Interment Service at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers

Kevin and Margarette, Children and Family

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Double couples: 2 sets of identical twins to marry

GREEN BAY, Va. (AP)—A set of identical twin sisters will fulfill their dream when they marry a set of identical twin brothers in a joint wedding this summer. The Lynchburg News & Advance reports Jeremy and Josh Salyers proposed to Briana and Brittany Deane on Feb. 2 at Virginia's aptly named Twin Lakes State Park. The engagements came six months after the pairs met at the Twin Days Festival, which bills itself as the world's largest annual gathering of twins and other multiples, in Twinsburg, Ohio. The 31-year-old Deanes had visited the festival, which Brittany calls "a magical place," since their first year of law school, the first time they had been apart. The Salyers made their first festival visit in 2017 and "lucked out on (their) first attempt," as Josh puts it.

Elvis Presley is running for an Arkansas congressional seat

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Elvis Presley is officially running for a congressional seat in Arkansas. But don't confuse him with the rock 'n' roll icon, unless he's performing. Elvis D. Presley performs shows as the late superstar Elvis A. Presley, but he's also now filed to run as the Libertarian nominee challenging Arkansas Republican Rep. Rick Crawford. Both men filed paperwork Monday to run for the 1st Congressional District in eastern Arkansas. Crawford has represented the area for four terms. Presley has previously run for Arkansas governor, land commissioner and the state Legislature. The Libertarian Party selected its nominees at a convention over the weekend. The one-week filing period for state and federal office in Arkansas ends Thursday.

Man with red sauce on face charged with meatball theft

HAZLE TOWNSHIP, Pa. (AP)—Police say a damning clue led to the arrest of a Pennsylvania man charged with stealing a pot of meatballs—red sauce smeared on his face and clothes. Authorities in Luzerne County have charged 48-year-old Leahman Glenn Robert Potter with burglary, criminal trespass and theft by unlawful taking for allegedly swiping a pot of meatballs from a man's garage on Monday. Police say the victim reported his meatballs missing and told officers at around 2:30 p.m. Monday that he saw Potter standing in front of his house with red sauce on his face and clothes. The pot was found on the street. It's unclear if Potter washed the sauce off before he was arrested a short time later.

Man charged with eluding police in stolen U-Haul—again

STANDISH, Maine (AP)—A Maine man has been arrested for the second time in a year on charges he led police on a chase in a stolen U-Haul truck. The Portland Press Herald reports a Cumberland County Sheriff's deputy tried to stop a U-Haul driven at high speeds by 41-year-old William Wyman in Standish Sunday night. Police say Wyman and the stolen truck were later found. Authorities say the Portland man had minor injuries and the vehicle sustained minor damage. Wyman faces multiple charges including theft of a motor vehicle and failure to stop for a police officer. He is being held on bail. He was previously charged with eluding officers and reckless conduct after police say he crashed into two vehicles last Halloween while driving a stolen U-Haul truck before he was apprehended.

Police: Man stole officer's car, used credit cards for food

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut police say a man stole a rookie officer's car and used his credit cards buy food at a Taco Bell and shop at Walmart. The Republican-American reports 21-year-old Waterbury resident Derrick Johnson was charged Tuesday with multiple offenses, including burglary, second-degree larceny and identity theft. Police say Johnson stole the car from a Waterbury parking garage on Jan. 23, the night of the officer's police academy graduation. Investigators say Johnson bought items from Walmart and Taco Bell with the stolen credit cards before leaving the car in a private lot. Police later recovered the car. Investigators say they identified Johnson using surveillance footage. Johnson is being held on a $25,000 bond. A hearing is scheduled in Waterbury Superior Court next month.

Suspects on the run scale fence, land in police lot, custody

PHOENIX (AP)—Two shoplifting suspects running from police scaled a fence to get away from officers and landed in a secure parking lot of a police station—and in custody. Officials tell KTAR-FM (http://bit.ly/2t585vf) that officers were called to a gas station for possible shoplifting at 6 p.m. Friday. Authorities say as officers arrived, th suspects, 28-year-old Marwan Al Ebadi and 29-year-old Salma Hourieh, took off running. The pair ran along the side of a building and jumped a fence, despite a sign for "Peoria Police" above the door. Security video shows Hourieh trying to hide under a bench before being placed in custody. Al Ebadi climbed back over the fence and was arrested on the street. Al Ebadi and Hourieh face charges of shoplifting, trespassing in a critical public safety building and drug charges.

Damaged ear of Penn State mascot's statue repaired

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—The damaged ear of a statue of the Pennsylvania State University mascot has been repaired. Authorities were called to the university's Nittany Lion Shrine around 4 a.m. Sunday and found that an ear on the right side of the statue had been broken off and was found nearby. The Centre Daily Times reports Wednesday the ear had been fixed by the university's Office of Physical Plant. Earlie the statue had a temporary replacement for the ear thanks to Penn State's 3-D Printing Club. The statue sculpted from a 13-ton block of limestone in 1940 was vandalized in 1978 and 1994. In 1979, sculptor Heinz Warneke, then 84, made a cast for a new ear. The Lion lost the ear again in 2003, but it wasn't thought to be vandalism.

Car vandalism culprit? Evidence points to unidentified bear

SONTAG, Miss. (AP)—Stealing a picnic basket is one thing. Mauling a car is quite another. A Mississippi wildlife department biologist says a bear attacked a woman's car Friday in the Sontag community about 60 miles south of Jackson. Jamie Holt tells the Jackson Clarion-Ledger there were tooth and claw marks consistent with a bear on the front wheel wells and hood. There was headlight damage, and the front license tag holder was ripped off. There was also a muddy bear track nearby. No one was inside the car, and it's not clear what prompted the attack. There was no food inside. A nearby trash can was untouched, as were apples in the yard. Mississippi's black bear population is growing, and bears are increasingly seen in areas where they've not been seen before.

Science & Technology

Amazon to buy Ring, maker of Wi-Fi–connected doorbells

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon is expanding its home-security business by buying Ring, which makes Wi-Fi-connected cameras and doorbells.

The deal comes months after the online retailer started selling its own Wi-Fi-connected indoor security cameras, which work with its voice-assistant Alexa. The Ring acquisition helps Amazon better compete with Google's Nest, which also makes cameras and doorbells.

Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc. declined to say how much it was paying for Ring or when the deal will close. The news was first reported by technology news site GeekWire.com.

Ring's doorbells and cameras capture video that can be streamed on smartphones and other devices. The company promotes its gadgets as a way to catch package thieves, a nuisance that Amazon has been looking to remedy.

Last year, Amazon launched a service called Amazon Key that lets those who buy a Wi-Fi-connected lock to unlock their front doors so packages could be left inside their home.

How to fix a tech support scam that locks your browser

TECH Q&A
By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: For the past two weeks I've been getting a full-screen "internet security alert" on my Windows PC. It's red with a white box in the middle displaying the error code 055BCCAC9FEC. A voice says that if I do anything my data will be compromised and that I should call a "Microsoft support" phone number. I have to shut down my PC to eliminate the warning. The Malwarebytes security program hasn't found any viruses. What can I do?

A: This is an unpleasant scam. Even if you are not fooled, these attacks often cause harm by locking your browser. You can get rid of the malware yourself, but it requires several steps.

The scam works this way: Malicious software is inadvertently downloaded to your PC and generates a warning that takes over your browser. If you call the phony help number, they will charge you a few hundred dollars to remotely take control of your PC and "fix" the problem. In some cases, they'll also steal your credit card information (see tinyurl.com/ycc6x5c8).

Here's the fix: Close your browser by simultaneously pressing the Ctrl, Alt and Del keys, then on the next menu clicking Task Manager. Look through Task Manager's list of "processes" that are running on your PC until you find your browser. Left click the browser in the list to highlight it, then click the "end task" button on the screen.

Then restart your browser without letting it return to the same page it was on (quickly type in a different Web address or click a bookmark).

Now download new versions of the free Malwarebytes (tinyurl.com/jsdacdk), free Malwarebytes AdwCleaner (tinyurl.com/huoodp2) and the 30-day free trial version of HitmanPro (tinyurl.com/jfxatff). Run these programs in this order: AdwCleaner, Malwarebytes and HitmanPro. (For detailed directions, see tinyurl.com/lzfx37v).

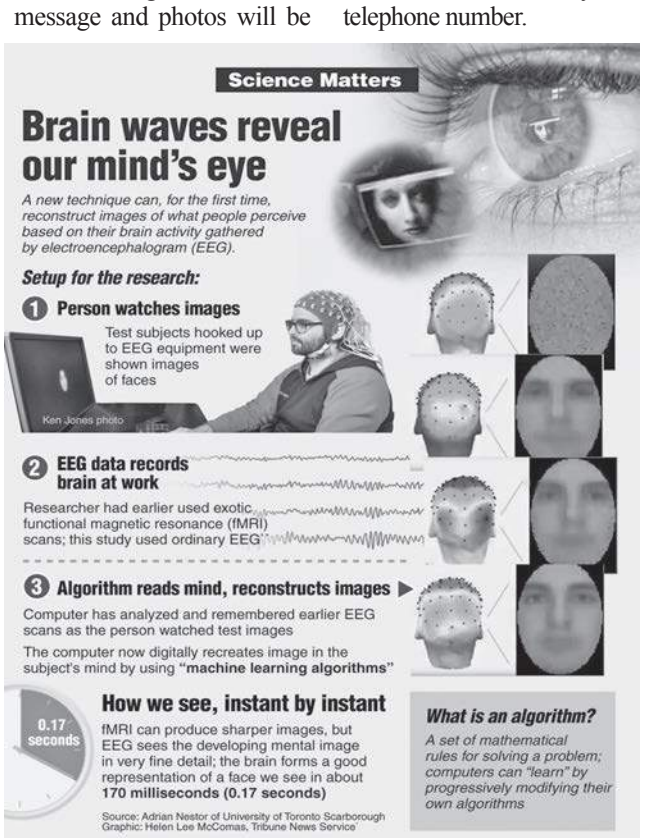
If the problem isn't resolved, go to the fourth step on that website, which explains how to restore your Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Internet Explorer browser to the original settings.

Q: I use the Outlook 2010 e-mail program. When I forward e-mailed photos or paste photos into an e-mail message, my recipients who use Apple devices receive the photos as win.dat files that they can't open. What can I do to fix this?

A: The problem lies with Microsoft Outlook, which is reformatting your photo attachments as "winmail.dat" e-mail attachments, also sometimes called "win.dat" files.

If your intended recipient is also using Outlook, the message and photos will be received without a problem. But if the recipient is using an Apple device, such as an iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch or Mac computer, the winmail.dat files can only be opened if the user first downloads special viewing software (see tinyurl.com/q7vjbox).

You may be able to change the settings in Outlook to prevent the photos from being reformatted to winmail.dat files (see tinyurl.com/yc2lal3z and tinyurl.com/yaoou4qy). However, the changes don't seem to work for everyone. If you still have problems, switch to a non-Outlook e-mail program (Gmail, Yahoo Mail or Outlook.com) whose files can be read by all devices. E-mail tech questions to steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Include name, city and telephone number.


Science Matters
Brain waves reveal our mind's eye
A new technique can, for the first time, reconstruct images of what people perceive based on their brain activity gathered by electroencephalogram (EEG).
Setup for the research:
1 Person watches images
Test subjects hooked up to EEG equipment were shown images of faces
Ken Jones photo
2 EEG data records brain at work
Researcher had earlier used exotic functional magnetic resonance (fMRI) scans; this study used ordinary EEG
3 Algorithm reads mind, reconstructs images
Computer has analyzed and remembered earlier EEG scans as the person watched test images
The computer now digitally recreates image in the subject's mind by using "machine learning algorithms"
How we see, instant by instant
0.17 seconds
fMRI can produce sharper images, but EEG sees the developing mental image in very fine detail; the brain forms a good representation of a face we see in about 170 milliseconds (0.17 seconds)
Source: Adrian Nestor of University of Toronto Scarborough
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
What is an algorithm?
A set of mathematical rules for solving a problem; computers can "learn" by progressively modifying their own algorithms

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Author Harper Lee's will made public, but not estate details

MONROEVILLE, Ala. (AP)—The will of "To Kill a Mockingbird" author Harper Lee has been made public following a lawsuit by The New York Times, but details on her estate remain a secret. The Times reports the will unsealed Tuesday shows most of Lee's assets were transferred into a trust days before her death two years ago in her hometown of Monroeville, Alabama. But the contents of her estate remain private because trust documents are private. A probate court sealed the will of the famously private writer following her death, and the newspaper filed suit in 2016 to have the document made public. The suit argued that Lee's desire for privacy wasn't sufficient legal reason to keep her will hidden from public view. Records show the estate recently dropped its opposition to unsealing the will. The move came as Emory University in Atlanta said separately it had acquired a collection of personal correspondence and memorabilia of Lee, who won the Pulitzer Prize for "Mockingbird" in 1961.

Pitt, DiCaprio set for Tarantino's Manson film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio are set to star in Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood." Sony Pictures says Wednesday that the film has been dated for a theatrical release on Aug. 9, 2019. Set in 1969 Los Angeles, the project has become widely known as Tarantino's Charles Manson film. Neither DiCaprio nor Pitt will be playing Manson however. Tarantino says they will play a pair of struggling actors. DiCaprio will appear as former Western TV series star and Pitt as his stunt double. Their characters live next door to Sharon Tate. A longtime resident of Los Angeles, Tarantino has been working on the script for five years. It will mark his ninth feature.

Rare concert gives Oscar-nominated composers an audience

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The composers of movie music spend most of their lives being heard not seen, but they're about to get a rare flash of the spotlight. In just the second such concert in 90 years of the Academy Awards, the five Oscar-nominated film scores will be performed Wednesday night at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. And four of the composers will conduct the orchestra themselves. They include the widely beloved John Williams, whose music for "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" brought him his 51st Oscar nomination; and the lesser-known Carter Burwell, whose nomination for "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" is his second. Hans Zimmer will lead a performance of his tension-building score for "Dunkirk," and Oscar favorite Alexandre Desplat will present his eerie romantic melodies from "The Shape of Water."

Sherman Alexie apologizes amid sexual misconduct allegations

SEATTLE (AP)—Prominent Pacific Northwest author Sherman Alexie has issued an apology amid anonymous allegations of sexual misconduct that surfaced on the internet in the past week.

The Seattle Times reports that Alexie released a statement, saying: "Over the years, I have done things that have harmed other people, including those I love most deeply." He also said that while some of his behavior was inappropriate, he has no recollection of physically or verbally threatening anybody or their careers. Alexie, who wrote "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," has authored more than two dozen books often drawing on experiences growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Washington. The online uproar has resulted in fallout in the literary and Native American communities.

Top executive b ehind TV's 'Fuller House' is fired

NEW YORK (AP)—Producers of the Netflix remake "Fuller House" have fired the top executive behind the show amid charges about his behavior on the set. Warner Brothers Television said Wednesday that it would not renew Jeff Franklin's deal, without explaining why. Variety reports that there were complaints about him being verbally abusive to staffers and making inappropriate comments to the show's writers. There have been no accusations of sexual misconduct. Franklin's attorney, Stanton "Larry" Stein, says neither he nor his client have been told about what had been said that was deemed offensive. Besides working on the remake, Franklin was the creator of "Full House," the ABC show upon which it was based. Netflix says that it hopes to go into production for the show's fourth season in the next few months.

McCain's daughter says Trump's reference to dad was hurtful

NEW YORK (AP) — Sen. John McCain's daughter Meghan says it was incredibly hurtful to see President Trump talk about her father at a conservative conference last week, where the president talked about how McCain derailed last year's bill to repeal his predecessor's health care law.

"The View' co-host Meghan McCain said Wednesday on that show that she had talked with Trump last year and was led to believe the attacks on her father would end. She says she was naive to believe that.

Her mother, Cindy, was also on the show and says Americans need more compassion from their leaders and not bullying. She says she's tired of it.

The Arizona senator and 2008 Republican presidential nominee is battling brain cancer.

This image released by ABC shows, from left, Whoopi Goldberg, Sunny Hostin, Joy Behar, Cindy McCain and Meghan McCain during a broadcast for "The View," on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018, in New York.

AP

Elizabeth Strout wins $20,000 Story Prize

NEW YORK (AP) — Elizabeth Strout, already a Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, has now won a major award for short stories. Strout is this year's winner of the $20,000 Story Prize. She was cited Wednesday night for her collection "Anything is Possible." Her other books include the novels "The Burgess Boys" and "Olive Kitteridge," which won the Pulitzer in 2009 and was adapted into an HBO miniseries starring Frances McDormand. The runners-up Wednesday were Daniel Alarcon for "The King is Always Above the People" and Ottessa Moshfegh for "Homesick for Another World." Each will receive $5,000. The Story Prize was established in 2004. Previous winners include Edwidge Danticat, Tobias Wolff and George Saunders.

Happy couple seeks best way to support troubled friends

DEAR ABBY: Occasionally, married friends will come to my husband and/or me venting about their marital problems. We have been through a few rough patches during our 12 years of marriage, and during those times, we sought help from family, friends and counselors. Today I can honestly say we are happier than ever and willing to stick through the ups and downs.

We try to pass along the things that helped us, but a lot of times we'll see one spouse wanting to work on improving the marriage and the other one oblivious or unwilling to do anything about it. I think our experience could help the spouses of our troubled friends see that things can work out by doing something about it, but I never know if or how to approach the subject with them. Should we keep our mouths shut and just be there for the unhappy friend, or is there a proper way to reach out to their spouse with an offer of support in situations like this?

TRULY WANTING TO HELP

DEAR TRULY WANTING: My advice would be to stay out of the line of fire. If you reach out to the unhappy spouse, who may be unaware that his or her marital problems were revealed to you, it will be regarded as intrusive. By all means tell the person asking your advice what worked for you, but leave it up to that person to convey it to his or her spouse.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: What is the etiquette when eating at a restaurant where a piano player is performing? I don't mean the "bar scene"-type piano player who wants the crowd to sing along, but more of a mid- to upscale type of place.

There's a restaurant like this in my town—the only one with a piano. On one special occasion when we were there, the piano player was playing "Misty" and a woman sitting nearby with her party wanted to make herself heard over him. She began talking very loudly to her group while he was playing the song. I thought it was tacky, and if I had been sitting near her, I would have shushed her up.

Isn't it polite to wait until the piano player is finished before talking loudly at your table? Whatever happened to behaving with a little class in restaurants?

DEANNA IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR DEANNA: The musician in that restaurant was there to provide mood music for the diners. If they chose to talk while he was playing, it was their privilege. The woman may have raised her voice because someone in her party had a hearing problem. For you to have taken it upon yourself to "shush her up" would have been rude, and for your sake, I'm glad you refrained from doing it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Am I overreacting to my husband's request that I take down photos of my mom and grandparents when his mom visits? They are displayed in our guest bedroom. I think his request was rude. I wonder if his mother even cares or if he just feels guilty. It's my house, too.

RELUCTANT IN TEXAS

DEAR RELUCTANT: Rather than remove your family photos, why not compromise by adding a couple of pictures of your husband's mother, too? I'm sure she would be pleased to see them. Problem solved.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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DEAR ABBY

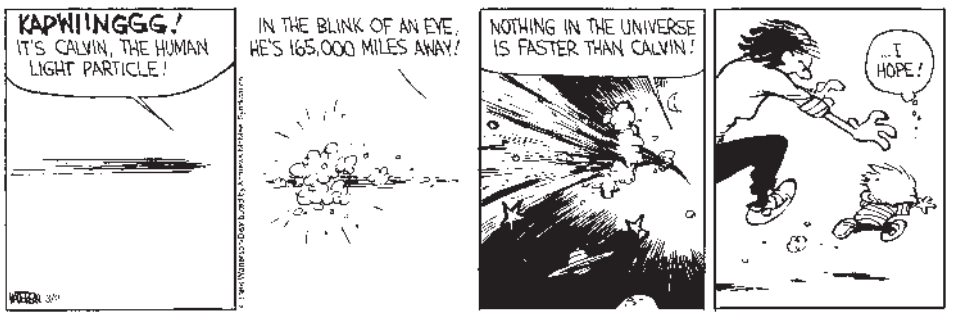
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

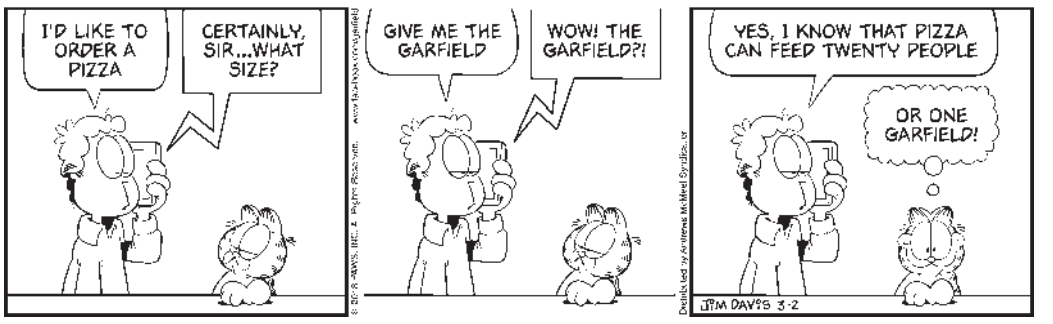
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


KAPWIINGGG! IT'S CALVIN, THE HUMAN LIGHT PARTICLE!
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, HE'S 165,000 MILES AWAY!
NOTHING IN THE UNIVERSE IS FASTER THAN CALVIN!
...I HOPE!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I'D LIKE TO ORDER A PIZZA
CERTAINLY, SIR...WHAT SIZE?
GIVE ME THE GARFIELD
WOW! THE GARFIELD?!
YES, I KNOW THAT PIZZA CAN FEED TWENTY PEOPLE
OR ONE GARFIELD!
JIM DAVIS 3-2

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DID YOU READ WHAT YOU WROTE WHILE YOU WERE SLEEP-WRITING?
YEAH...
DID IT MAKE ANY SENSE?
YEAH...
I'M A LITTLE FREAKED OUT. IT'S GOOD. LIKE, REALLY GOOD.
THIS IS EITHER THE GREATEST THING EVER OR CHAPTER THREE OF A STEPHEN KING NOVEL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 That girl
4 Baby carriage
8 Gulf War missile
12 Post-op area
13 Lighten
14 "Downton Abbey" countess
15 Without holding back
17 Incursion
18 Diving birds
19 Zesty dip
20 Unpaid bills
22 Garbage barge
24 Nest egg choices
25 Seeming displacement, to astronomers
29 Joke
30 Disgusted
31 Prior night
32 Levy that helps pay for schools
34 British gun
35 Right on the map
36 Actress McDonald of "Private Practice"
37 Beer type
40 Roundish 'do
41 Tied
42 Wood floor protectant
46 Charged bits
47 Screenwriter James
48 Calendar abbr.
49 Vacationing
50 Close
51 Enjoy Vail

DOWN

1 Smack
2 Green prefix
3 Yellow turnip
4 Quick looks
5 Farm fathers
6 Simile center
7 Tex- — cuisine
8 Write illegibly
9 Furnace fuel
10 "The Haj" author
11 Arp's art
16 Shacks
19 Bath bar
20 Uses a trowel
21 Part of Q.E.D.
22 Nasser's successor
23 Heart of the matter
25 Favorites
26 Disappointments
27 Say it's so
28 TV's "Warrior Princess"
30 Dread
33 Wee
34 Foolproof
36 Pursuing
37 "Star Wars" royal
38 Acknowledge
39 Ms. Rowlands
40 Cruising
42 Skillet
43 Census stat
44 Fine, at NASA
45 Roman 16

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	A	G	A		P	I	A		B	R	O	W	
E	C	O	L		R	A	M		R	E	D	O	
W	H	A	P		I	D	E		O	V	E	N	
S	E	D	A	N	S		N	A	N	O			
			C	O	M	E	D	Y	C	L	U	B	
S	O	P	A	R		P	E	N		T	S	A	
O	L	A	S		P	H	D		B	E	E	N	
U	Z			P	A	I		P	A	R	E		
R	O	T	A	R	Y	C	L	U	B				
		T	R		B		I	N	B	R	E	D	
R	O	A	M		A	S	K		L	A	D	E	
A	L	T	O		C	U	E		E	R	G	S	
W	E	A	R		K	E	N		S	E	E	K	

Yesterday's answer 3-2

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11	
12			■	13				■	14				
15			16					■	17				
		18				■	■	19					
20	21				■	22	23			■	■	■	
24				■	25					26	27	28	
29			■	30					■	31			
32			33					■	34				
			35				■	36					
37	38	39			■	■	40				■	■	
41				■	42	43					44	45	
46				■	47				■	48			
49				■	50				■	51			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bryce Dallas Howard, 37; Method Man, 47; Daniel Craig, 50; Jon Bon Jovi, 56.

Happy Birthday: Think before you act. Knowing what you want and formulating a plan will be essential if you want to make it through this year with fewer conflicts and greater gains. The potential to have a wonderful year is present, but will depend on how you treat others and handle difficult situations. Sharing ideas and strategies will make a difference to the way things unfold. Your numbers are 3, 11, 22, 25, 32, 39, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Handle your colleagues and peers with caution. Don't feel like you have to share personal information if you don't trust a situation or someone you are dealing with. Listen carefully and move forward. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* What you do for others will not go unnoticed. A kind word or offering something special to someone you like will improve your relationship. Love and romance are highlighted and should be handled responsibly. Share your feelings and intentions. 5 stars

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll get taken advantage of if you are too eager to please or if you take on tasks that don't belong to you. Anger will eventually set in if you end up doing the brunt of the work. Emotional blackmail is apparent. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Make a point to include someone you love in a business function. It will help you fit in better with those you work with and encourage your personal ally to take on new professional challenges. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Communications can go either way. Strive to remain calm, offer what you can and walk away from anyone who is being unreasonable. Be cautious while traveling or dealing with emotional matters that could affect your status and reputation. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Partnerships should be your primary concern. Whether you are looking for love or are already in the midst of a relationship with someone, ironing out any issues that need adjusting will make your life better. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Whether you are looking for love or friendship, consider including someone you are close to in your plans. Before you let your imagination run wild, however, consider the risks of pursuing something questionable. Secrets are best kept that way. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Make time for the ones you love. Whether you make plans to spend time with children, friends or your romantic partner, live in the moment and share your feelings and future plans. A short trip will bring you closer together. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Emotions will escalate if you get into discussions with friends, relatives or your immediate family. Don't let tempers mount. Instead, let everyone calm down and rethink what's at stake before you continue. Time is on your side. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You can turn your dream into a reality. Your sensitivity toward those you deal with will make a difference in the outcome of a situation you are trying to manipulate. An open and honest approach will lead to personal success. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Channel your energy into activities that will stimulate you mentally, physically and emotionally, and it will diminish a tendency someone has to derail your plans. A personal change will make you feel confident and content with your accomplishment. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stay calm, focused and refuse to let anyone goad you into an argument. Have a plan in place and stick to what you know you can accomplish. Personal growth will come from the ability to know your limits and your strengths. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, detailed and resourceful. You are commanding and confident.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5								3
			8	9	6			
9								4
	7			8			6	
	6		9	3	7		5	
	2			4			1	
8								6
			7	1	3			
2								1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	3	1	6	9	7	8	2	5
8	5	7	2	3	1	6	9	4
6	9	2	4	5	8	7	1	3
2	7	9	1	4	5	3	6	8
5	6	8	9	2	3	4	7	1
1	4	3	8	7	6	2	5	9
7	8	5	3	1	2	9	4	6
9	2	6	5	8	4	1	3	7
3	1	4	7	6	9	5	8	2

Difficulty level ★★★ 2/2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S GOLDEN EARS PARK Solution: 8 letters

H	F	T	A	P	S	G	O	B	T	E	S	N	U	S
F	O	O	L	A	T	S	A	O	C	T	R	A	I	L
R	I	T	R	R	A	E	B	O	C	O	R	R	A	L
D	E	S	E	E	R	T	S	T	I	B	T	E	M	A
R	I	B	H	L	S	S	T	S	N	M	R	M	E	F
N	O	S	N	I	T	T	A	P	C	A	E	O	N	R
R	E	C	C	C	N	E	T	S	I	R	K	T	I	E
E	R	L	K	O	A	G	E	V	P	G	S	E	T	T
T	S	I	L	Y	V	N	A	D	A	N	A	C	I	A
S	E	M	A	A	O	E	O	E	R	I	S	M	E	W
E	L	B	W	L	K	H	R	E	K	P	K	A	S	E
V	B	A	L	O	U	E	T	T	E	M	S	R	N	E
L	A	A	R	O	O	T	S	A	S	A	O	I	O	D
Y	T	H	G	I	L	I	W	T	P	C	I	N	W	S
S	S	T	E	W	A	R	T	R	E	K	K	E	R	S

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Alouette, Amenities, Bear, Bogs, Boots, Camping, Canada, Canoe, Climb, Coastal, Corral, Discover, Fishing, Forest, Hotel, Kiosks, Kristen, Lakes, Marine, Park, Path, Pattinson, Picnic, Rambo, Remote, Robert, Rocky, Roots, Snow, Stables, Stallone, State, Stewart, Sunset, Sylvester, Taps, Trail, Trees, Trekkers, Treks, Twilight, Walk, Waterfalls, Weeds

Yesterday's Answer: Guilty

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Office Clerk-$7.05/hr. with 2-years experience. Email JJ Brother Corp. at jjbrothercorp@gmail.com.

WHATZIT Solution:
Easy way out

American Pretty Tour Corporation

(6) Tour Guide
(1) Manager

7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.
Existing work experience is a plus.
Chinese language skill is a plus.
US citizen and Green card preferred.

Contact 488-1868
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

American Create Beauty Corporation

(5) Sales Associates
(1) Cleaner

7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.
Existing work experience is a plus.
Chinese language skill is a plus.
US citizen and Green card preferred.

Contact 488-1868
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

Island Pro Services
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- **(6) Commercial Cleaner**
- **(4) Operational Service Worker**

Minimum wage. Two to five years experience in a related field. For inquiries or resume submission, please email islandpro2015@gmail.com
Serious Inquiries Only Please

Danes Construction Corp.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN
(1) COMPUTER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

Interested applicants may send their resume to danes@guam.net

LOOKING TO HIRE

Electricians and Helpers

Electricians starting from $12-18/hr and Helpers for $9/hr.

Bring resume to Marianas Business Plaza (3rd floor – 309)
For more information, contact Alan at 285-5499 or 234-4800

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www.guam.wish.org
Here & Now! Saipan Tribune

American Pretty Car Rental

(1) Manager
(2) Commercial Cleaner

7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.
Existing work experience is a plus.
Chinese language skill is a plus.
US citizen and Green card preferred.

Contact 488-1868
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

American Create Beauty Corporation

(2) Western food cook
(3) Serving staff
(1) BBQ cook
(1) Maintenance/cleaner
(1) Manager

7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.
Existing work experience is a plus.
Chinese language skill is a plus.
US citizen and Green card preferred.

Contact 488-1868
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

American DongSheng Corporation

(6) Sales Associate
(1) Manager
(1) Commercial Cleaner/Stocker
(1) Driver/Deliver/Cleaner
(2) Warehouse clerk

7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.
Existing work experience is a plus.
Chinese language skill is a plus.
US citizen and Green card preferred.

Contact 488-1868
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

THANKS SAIPAN CORPORATION

(1) OPERATION MANAGER

- Must Have 4 years experience in Managerial Position.
- Can speak English, Korean and Chinese

Contact Person: **Jane Kim**
Contact Number :**783-0085**

PC Bargain Corporation is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

General Manager
Must have a bachelor's degree in college preferably in Business and Marketing Management with at least 5 years work-related experience in Sales, Marketing and in Food Service business (for restaurant operation) with emphasis on strategic planning of operations. General Manager must possess an extensive work experience primarily in the given fields, must be a dynamic team player and must be able to handle diverse operational situation in any given circumstances. Must be able to work flexible hours as the need arises.

Sales Supervisor
Must have an associate degree in college preferably in Business and Marketing Management with at least 5 years work-related experience in Sales and Marketing. Sales Supervisor must spearhead the company's business outlook and a dynamic team player. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours

Sales Associate
Must have an associate degree in college preferably in Business and Marketing Management with at least 5 years work-related experience in Sales and Marketing with emphasis on sales strategies, revenue management, and with experience in inventory control and management. Proficient in the use of software programs such as but not limited to MS Word and Excel software and Peachtree Inventory System. Sales Associate must possess experience primarily in the given fields, must be a dynamic team player and be able to strategically project the business operation and reporting. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Cook (2) – Salut Restaurant
5 years of experience in kitchen operation with specialty on various Filipino and International cuisine. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Applications can be submitted at PC Bargain Corporation located on the Ground Floor, Tun Kiku's Building at Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, March 9, 2018.

PC Bargain Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

JOB VACANY ANNOUNCEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR: Must be College Graduate with a 4-year degree & with at least four-year experience of property management, pawnshop and real estate. Knowledgeable in real estate and drilling operations, gold acid testing and QuickBooks preferred.

BUSINESS SUPPORT SPECIALIST: College Graduate with a 4-year degree or with at least two year experience in Western Union, Real Estate, Pawnshop and Drilling business. Has excellent customer service and organizational skills and skilled in dealing with financial and numeric data.

WELL DRILLER: Minimum of 8 years experience of monitoring water well drilling & boring holes. Must have excellent knowledge & skill in well servicing & well drilling using different methods & other necessary drilling equipment, tools & machines. OSHA & HAZWOPER Certification are required.

DRILLER HELPER: Minimum of 5 years experience of assisting in water well drilling & boring holes. Must have excellent knowledge & skills in well servicing & well drilling using different methods & other necessary drilling equipment, tools & machines. OSHA & HAZWOPER certification are required.

CONSTRUCTION LABORER: Minimum of 5 years experience of performing tasks involving physical labor in well construction & real estate development projects, specializing in water well drilling projects & commercial and residential property maintenance service. OSHA & HAZWOPER certification are required.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC: Minimum of 5 years experience of performing tasks involving heavy equipment preventive maintenance such as engine tune-ups, oil changes, tire rotation and changes, wheel balancing, replacing filters. Maintains vehicle functional condition by listening to operator complaints; conducting inspections; repairing engine failures; repairing mechanical and electrical systems malfunctions; replacing parts and components; repairing body damage. OSHA & HAZWOPER certification are required.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR: Minimum of 5 years experience of accomplishes maintenance human resource objectives by selecting, orienting, training, assigning, scheduling, coaching, counseling, and disciplining employees; communicating job expectations; planning, monitoring, appraising job contributions; recommending compensation actions; adhering to policies and procedures. Meets maintenance operational standards by contributing maintenance information to strategic plans and reviews; implementing production, productivity, quality, and customer-service standards; resolving problems.

Alexander Incorporated
Alexander Building, Beach Road,
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
For inquiries, please call 234-5117

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 08-2018

"AMENDED"

Opening date: February 16, 2018 Closing date: March 09, 2018

Positions:
(1) Mechanic-II (Saipan)
(1) Electrician (Saipan)
(2) Custodial-I (Saipan)
(1) ARFF General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
(3) General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
(1) HR Specialist (Saipan)
(1) Maintenance/Custodial-I (Rota)
(1) Maintenance/Custodial Supervisor (Rota)
(1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance (Rota)
(1) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than 5:00 pm on March 09, 2018.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or cpa.boardsec@pticom.com by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
P.O. Box 5153 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950-5153
TEL. NOS. (670) 234-6925/6958/8036
FAX NO. (670) 234-1013

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 18-034
OPENING DATE: 02/16/18
CLOSING DATE: 02/16/19
(CONTINUOUS)

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT
This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: **Appraiser** **Ungraded $35,000.00-$40,000.00 P/A**

The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: **Department of Public Lands, SAIPAN**

DUTIES:
Prepares appraisal reports for public and private land as requested. Develops appraisal review by following and complying with the binding requirements of Standards Rule 3-1 of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP). Develops real property appraisal by following and complying with the binding requirements of Standards Rule 1-1 to 1-5 of the USPAP. Reports the results of an appraisal review by following and complying with the binding requirements of Standards Rule 3-2 and 3-3 of the USPAP. Performs in-house appraisal assignments and valuation services. Serves as a technical advisor and consultant on general real estate appraisal matters. Assists with drafting of implementing rules and regulations relating to real estate appraisal services pursuant to provisions of the statues. Conducts research and compilation of real estate and real property (land) markets for Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Provides and assists with informal training on real estate appraisal education to DPL staffs. Provides periodic reports of accomplishments on real estate appraisal assignments. Attends meetings, public hearings and other meetings as required. Attends court hearings as an expert witness to testify on land valuation matters. Travels inter-islands or other places to undertake all tasks relevant to real estate appraisal services as directed. Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Real Estate, Business, Finance or related field plus four (4) years of work experience in appraisal or related work. Copy of Degree of Official Transcript and Police Clearance must be attached to the application.

CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: This position is **"EXEMPT"**; Is not eligible to receive payment for overtime hours performed pursuant to Part IV.B16 of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulation (PSSR/R), Part 1.7C of the Excepted Service Regulations (ESR) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Note: Education and training claimed under item 24(A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma or certificate. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND THEIR CURRENT APPLICATION FORMS TO:

Office of Personnel Management	Office of Personnel Management	Office of Personnel Management
Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai	Songsong Village	San Jose Village
Saipan, MP 96950	Rota, MP 96951	Tinian, MP 96952

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Judge, Stanton, and Sanchez in Yanks lineup for 1st time

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—New York Yankees' fans had been waiting for this: Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton and Gary Sanchez hitting back-to-back-to-back.

With the slugging trio in the lineup together for the first time, Sanchez hit a long home run, Stanton had two hits and Judge hit a hard grounder in Wednesday's 9-6 spring training loss to the Detroit Tigers.

Stanton reached on a pop-fly single to right with one out in the first and Sanchez sent the next pitch from left-hander Daniel Norris over the left-center field scoreboard at Steinbrenner Field.

"It feels great when you hit squarely," Sanchez said through a translator.

Norris didn't watch the ball leave the park.

"It was really loud," he said. "I figured it was gone. A first-pitch ambush heater that got hit really far."

Stanton, acquired from Miami in December, also doubled off the right-field wall and flied out to deep center. Sanchez added a soft single to center.

"It looked like he was back in the (home run) derby kicking my butt," Stanton said of Sanchez.

Judge, the designated hitter in his first game since offseason left shoulder surgery, struck out and hit a smash down the third-base line that Jeimer Candelario snagged with a backhand grab while on one knee.

"It felt great," Judge said. "It felt like an opening day, getting a chance to be back out with the guys again. Making the progress we wanted."

Judge was the unanimous AL Rookie of the Year after hitting a league-high 52 homers with 114 RBI. He had surgery Nov. 20 for loose-body removal and cartilage clean up.

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge, right, hits as Giancarlo Stanton, center, looks on during batting practice before a baseball spring exhibition game against the Detroit Tigers, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018, in Tampa, Fla.

Sanchez had 33 homers last year despite missing most of April with a biceps injury. His early power impressed Judge.

"I feel like he can just wake-up out of bed with no swings, get into a game and do that," Judge said.

Stanton won the NL MVP award last year after hitting a big league-high 59 homers with 132 RBI.

New York's lineup was filled with most of the players likely to start the March 29 opener at Toronto, though new Yankees manager Aaron Boone said against most right-handers he likely will break his sluggers.

"Murderers' row," a smiling Norris said.

Meanwhile, in Phoenix, Milwaukee Brewers catcher Stephen Vogt is expected to miss two to three weeks because of a strained right shoulder.

The injury occured last week during a spring training workout. Vogt said he felt something awkward during a drill, but attributed it to getting back into game shape.

Vogt caught Milwaukee's spring training opener on Friday. He got an MRI after discomfort lingered through the weekend, and the test revealed a strain.

"The soreness kind of crept up and it got to a point where I had to stop throwing," Vogt said Wednesday. "I'm thankful that it's not something more serious than just a strain."

The 27-year-old hit .254 with eight home runs and 20 RBI in 45 games after he was claimed off waivers from Oakland. He missed nearly a month during the season with a sprained left knee and had surgery in the offseason on his right elbow.

Vogt agreed to a $3,065,000, one-year contract that is not guaranteed and arrived at camp prepared to compete with Jett Bandy for a roster spot behind likely starter Manny Pina.

Baserunners were successful on 27 of 28 stolen base attempts against Vogt last season. Vogt focused much of his preparation during the offseason and spring training on adjusting his arm slot and used weighted balls to improve arm strength.

"He's frustrated but he knows what's in front of him so hopefully he can get back and still have time to get ready," manager Craig Counsell said.

USOC CEO resigns amid sex-abuse scandal

NEW YORK (AP)—Scott Blackmun resigned as chief executive of the U.S. Olympic Committee on Wednesday, stepping aside so he can tackle his worsening bout with prostate cancer and to allow the federation to move forward under new leadership to address the sex-abuse scandal that has rocked gymnastics and other sports.

The 60-year-old CEO was diagnosed with prostate cancer in January and did not attend the Pyeongchang Games.

Blackmun leaves as calls for his ouster were growing louder -- from two U.S. senators and, more notably, from a number of gymnasts and other athletes who said neither he nor the USOC at large reacted properly to cases including those involving Larry Nassar, the doctor who sexually abused members of the U.S. gymnastics team.

The USOC is conducting an independent review of when Blackmun and others learned the details about abuse cases at USA Gymnastics and whether they responded appropriately.

Susanne Lyons, a member of the board, will step down from that position and serve as acting CEO while the search for Blackmun's replacement begins.

At a news conference to kick off the Olympics, chairman Larry Probst said Blackmun had served the USOC with distinction and the board found no reason to relieve him. In an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday, Probst said Blackmun has since received more information about the treatment he'll need.

"We need a CEO in place who can (tend) to this current situation and work hard to get things back on a positive track," Probst said.

The USOC said it was starting several initiatives, including providing new funding and resources for Nassar victims and others in Olympic sports who have been subject to abuse; sex-abuse cases in swimming, taekwondo and speedskating have also occurred during Blackmun's tenure. The USOC also will review its relationships with national governing bodies of Olympic sports and double funding to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

John Manly, an attorney representing Nassar victims in a lawsuit that seeks monetary damages and court oversight of USA Gymnastics, said it was victims speaking out about the USOC that forced Blackmun to resign.

"USOC has focused nearly all its efforts on money and medals while the safety of our athletes has taken a back seat," Manly said.

Blackmun's last several years at the helm of USOC have focused on establishing the SafeSport organization, which formed to compel all Olympic sports organizations to use the same rules for reporting and handling abuse cases.

It was a herculean task that involved raising millions of dollars to start an entity independent of the USOC that could police abuse cases in a similar manner as the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency runs the anti-doping system in the United States.

Teams back at combine in search of 2018 success

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Lured out of the broadcast booth with a $100 million contract that makes him the highest-paid football coach ever, Jon Gruden sauntered up to the podium and flashed that mischievous smile.

"I'm very excited to be back here in Indianapolis," Gruden declared. "I sure have missed the combine."

Gruden is navigating an offseason NFL landscape that's changed drastically since he last roamed the sideline nearly a decade ago.

"It's a lot different because you're not allowed to have any interaction with the players, and I've always complained about that since the new (collective bargaining agreement) came into place," Gruden said Wednesday. "A lot of players would come to see me in Tampa to get their football fix.

"So, you're not allowed to have contact with these guys. But what's most discouraging to me is we've got to make some decisions on our roster, on salaries, on players and their futures and you can't even meet them," Gruden grumbled.

"I don't know these guys. I've never coached them. I never met half of them. So, that's been very, very difficult for me and I've been emotional about it at times."

On the next podium was Matt Patricia, who, unlike his former colleague Josh McDaniels, didn't balk at leaving Bill Belichick's brigade.

Then there was Andy Reid, in the midst of another major roster shakeup, and his protege, Doug Pederson, still basking in Philadelphia's first Super Bowl triumph in just his second season as coach of the Eagles.

All are gathering this week in Indianapolis hoping to better their chances of winning in 2018.

Top college prospects, including a group of quarterbacks that could produce five first-round draft picks, will spend four days getting poked and prodded, tested and timed.

GMs and coaches will pepper them with questions either in formal 15-minute interviews or during a mixed zone after their physical assessments.

"It's a chance to get to know these guys, to know exactly what you're getting when they come into the building," said new Texans general manager Brian Gaine.

He said their athleticism and acumen are already well-known, and they'll flash their strength, speed and swiftness this week at Lucas Oil Stadium.

What the GMs and coaches want to do is get a look under the hood.

"We'd like to talk about football as much as we can, but we need to know everything we can to find out about these players," Gaine said. "So when they come into our building (we know) that they're a good fit for us in the locker room, in the weight room, in the training room, in the meeting rooms, out on the practice field."

After this week, teams will retreat to their headquarters and begin preparing for the annual flood of free agents that will hit the market in mid-March.

NFL.com reported this week that teams will soon receive in-game player-tracking data on every NFL player in the league, something that could change the way they scout opponents and evaluate free agents.

Westbrook lifts Thunder past Mavs in OT

DALLAS (AP)— Russell Westbrook scored 30 points, including the go-ahead three-point play in the final minute of overtime, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Dallas Mavericks 111-110 on Wednesday night.

Westbrook, who had 11 rebounds and seven assists, drove for the tying layup and made the free throw with 38 seconds left in OT to help the playoff-contending Thunder salvage a four-game split of the season series against a one-time postseason rival now among the NBA's worst teams.

Dwight Powell forced overtime at 100-all with a follow shot at the buzzer to match his career high with 21 points. It was the first points for Dallas since Powell's alley-oop dunk with 4 minutes remaining. Harrison Barnes led the Mavericks with 26 points.

The Mavericks had a chance to win in overtime, but could only get a desperation jumper from rookie Dennis Smith Jr. at the buzzer.

The Mavericks almost turned it over on the final possession of regulation but Wesley Matthews kept the play alive before missing a wild layup, with Powell grabbing the rebound on the other side of the basket and laying it in.

Carmelo Anthony had put the Thunder ahead with 1:23 to go on a layup after three offensive rebounds on the same possession, including two from Steven Adams.

Paul George had 23 points and 11 rebounds, and Adams had nine points and 12 boards.

Smith had eight of his 17 points in the fourth quarter and overtime.

AP
Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) drives toward the basket as Dallas Mavericks guard Yogi Ferrell (11) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018 in Dallas.

Warriors 109, Wizards 101

In Washington, a day after taking schoolkids to a museum instead of visiting President Donald Trump at the White House, the Golden State Warriors won for the seventh time in eight games by beating the Washington Wizards as Kevin Durant scored 32 points, Stephen Curry added 25, and Klay Thompson limited Bradley Beal to eight.

Durant shot 12 for 20, Thompson scored 13, and Draymond Green contributed 11 points and 11 assists.

Otto Porter Jr. led Washington with 29 points and 10 rebounds, and Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 17 on 4-of-16 shooting. Beal came in averaging a team-leading 23.7 points but he missed his first nine shots and had zero points at halftime. His first basket came with under 5+ minutes left in the third quarter.

Pelicans 121, Spurs 116

In San Antonio, Anthony Davis had 26 points and 15 rebounds, and New Orleans rallied in the final two minutes to beat San Antonio, adding to the Spurs' misery after losing LaMarcus Aldridge to an injury in the first half.

New Orleans won its seventh straight after trailing by as many as 15 points.

San Antonio, which has been without superstar forward Kawhi Leonard for all but nine games this season, lost Aldridge to a sprained right ankle late in the first half. Aldridge landed awkwardly while defending a driving hook shot by Davis with three minutes left in the second quarter.

Celtics 134, Hornets 106

In Boston, Kyrie Irving scored 34 points in the first three quarters, and then sat out the fourth with the rest of Boston's starters as the Celtics routed Charlotte.

Aron Baynes had 12 points and 10 rebounds and Jaylen Brown scored 15, including nine in the third quarter as the Celtics shot 60 percent and turned the game into a blowout. Terry Rozier and Greg Monroe scored 14 points apiece for the Celtics, who won their fourth straight and ended Charlotte's five-game winning streak.

Pistons 110, Bucks 87

In Detroit, Andre Drummond had 15 points and 16 rebounds, and Detroit dominated inside in a victory over Milwaukee.

The Pistons outscored Milwaukee 56-34 in the paint and had 15 offensive rebounds in the first half alone. Blake Griffin had eight points, nine rebounds and seven assists for Detroit, which won for only the second time in eight games.

Raptors 117, Magic 104

In Orlando, DeMar DeRozan scored 21 points and Kyle Lowry added 17 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds to lead Toronto over Orlando.

Pascal Siakam had 14 points, including 10 in the final five minutes as the Raptors pulled away for their 11th win in 13 games. Jakob Poeltl added 13 points and Fred VanFleet had 12.

Evan Fournier and Mario Hezonja scored 17 apiece for Orlando, which has lost seven straight games. Nikola Vucevic added 14 points and Aaron Gordon had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Magic.

Hawks 107, Pacers 102

In Atlanta, Dennis Schroder scored seven of Atlanta's final eight points to finish with 14, and the Hawks held off a late Indiana comeback.

John Collins had 16 points for the Hawks, who led by 23 before holding on late to end their four-game losing streak.

Bojan Bogdanovic led Indiana with 26 points while making four 3-pointers in the final period. His third 3 of the period cut the Atlanta lead to 97-91. A follow shot by Domantas Sabonis.

Suns 110, Grizzlies 102

In Memphis, Devin Booker scored 34 points, Josh Jackson added a career-best 29 and Phoenix snapped a 10-game losing streak by beating Memphis.

Elfrid Payton had 19 points and 10 assists for Phoenix, which won for the first time since defeating the Dallas Mavericks 102-88 on Jan. 31.

While the Suns snapped their losing streak, the misery continued for Memphis, which lost its 11th straight as the Grizzlies were winless in February.

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Table tennis qualifier for Micro Games

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The NMI Table Tennis Federation is inviting ping-pong players to join a tournament tonight from 5pm to 9pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament will either follow a round-robin or knockout format, depending on how many players will participate. There's no entrance or registration fee and the tournament will serve as a qualifying event for the CNMI team that will be formed for the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.

The qualifying event was organized a few days after Patrick Wuertz, appointed last year as the International Table Tennis Federation-Oceania high performance officer, visited Saipan early this week and conducted a coaching seminar.

The local federation, through its president Ted Deleon Guerrero, is hoping to revive the sport by holding the qualifier and inviting teams to Saipan for goodwill games.

Last year, the Korean Ping-Pong Association of Saipan held a goodwill tournament against a group of visiting South Korean players. Micro Games double gold medalist Jean Shi, veterans Steve Lim, Budhi Gurung, and Charlie Chen played in the event and challenged Koreans Jeong Mi Jeong, Hui Yeol Park, Kwang Sun Lee, Young Soon Roh, Jae Young Lim, Bu Gon Jun, Seung Hoon Lee, and Young Son Roh.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
International Table Tennis Federation-Oceania high-performance officer Patrick Wuertz, eighth left, joins local table tennis officials and players after holding a coaching clinic on Saipan early this week.

Lim was the president of the Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association whose players won a total of 10 medals for the CNMI—four gold, three silver, and three bronze—when Saipan hosted the Micro Games in 2006. Lim and company also earned a handful of medals in the 2010 edition of the quadrennial meet in Palau.

NMSA

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"We have a committee working on this (awarding of incentives to athletes winning medals for the CNMI). It is anticipated that we will offer these incentives to medal winners following each Micro Games and Pacific Games. Hopefully, the board will adopt a policy which will apply to all future competitions, so that we don't have to do it on a piecemeal basis after each Games," said White, who first announced the group's plan to award incentives during the 2017 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet late last month.

"I don't want to speculate as to what the committee will recommend to the board, or as to what the board will adopt, but if I had to offer a personal guess, I would guess that the incentives will be greater for medal winners at the Pacific Games. The committee will make a recommendation as to the amounts to be awarded. One other thing that the committee will need to consider is how to award incentives in team sports," he added.

Meanwhile, White reiterated to NMSA-member federations sending athletes to Yap the need to submit a monthly report about their preparations for the quadrennial event. During last night's meeting, only the weightlifting association headed by John Davis turned in a copy of their report.

The NMSA president warned federations that failure to submit monthly reports may prevent athletes/teams from competing in Yap. Besides weightlifting, other sports that have committed to send delegates to this year's Micro Games are basketball, baseball, beach and indoor volleyball, table tennis, canoe, swimming, athletics, and spearfishing, whose late inclusion on Team CNMI was just announced last night.

3 SSC

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Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero. The 12-year-old SSC bet collected 83 points to join Manhoben's Israel Poppe (93) and Tsunami Guam's Ty Leon Guerrero (89) in the podium.

"The older swimmers swam well and learned a lot about where they are performance-wise. Going into the international meet this month, the meet was a good test to see where they are at and gave them a goal for the March 23 and 24 races," SSC coach Jacoby Winkfield said.

First-timers

Winkfield said four other SSC swimmers joined the Guam meet and it was their first time to compete off-island.

"Mark and Kaithlyn Chavez, Aoi Braxton, and Savita Sikkel were all first-timers in Guam. The swimmers swam well and managed the pressures of a new experience. As a coach it was great experiencing this with them," Winkfield said.

Kaitlyn and Sikkel raced in the girls 9 to 10 age group and were ranked No. 12 and 13, respectively, placing ahead of four other swimmers. Mark and Braxton finished at No. 14 and No. 12 in the 11 to 12 age group. Kaithlyn won one event—the 100m butterfly—after clocking in at 44.47 seconds and beating Tsunami Guam's Sadie Ha'ane Mayo (45.29), Sikkel (49.41), Manukai's Mallory Prins (57.78), and Guam Typhoonz's Ava O'Brien (1:02.89).

SDA School hosts 5K Hope Run

Before the crack of dawn, around 70 runners and walkers alike came together at the Garapan Fishing Base in support of Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School's 9th Annual 5K Hope Run Fundraiser held last Feb. 25. Proceeds from the event go towards the Hope Run Scholarship, which aids several students attending SDA School.

At 6:30am, runners and strollers whizzed past the starting line. Ava, a kindergartener at Saipan SDA School, commented on the hardest part about participating in the 5K, "for me, the hardest part was finishing the race. It was really tiring."

Ronald E. Villafria won the race with a time of 22:23 and was followed by Luke Doss, Tania Tan, Therize Millare, Eric Mahinay, Ariel Lansangan, Warren Creed, Marielle Lopez, and Christie Bou.

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School would like to thank the following for supporting the fun run: AON Insurance, Cafe Mangosix, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Goris Missions, Hardt Eye Clinic, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, Island Apparel, JC Tenorio Enterprises, Inc., 89.9 JOYFM, Java Joes, Kanoa Resort, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, McDonald's, National Office Supply, Pacific Islands Club, Powerade, Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, Transamerica Corporation, We Just Clicked Photography Co., and White Coconut Computer Services. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marielle Lopez leads two other runners on their way to the finish line of Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School's 9th Annual 5K Hope Run Fundraiser held last Feb. 25 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

KANOA

From Page 32

ed three, which she recorded in consecutive fashion after lighting up the board in the 47th, 53rd, and 58th minute, while Hannah Santos chipped in one in the 25th.

Shirley's was next to see action in the division and took Kanoa's cue after shutting down Matansa, 3-0.

Therize Millare towed Shirley's to victory after knocking in a pair of goals. She earned her first in the 23rd minute, two minutes after Lillian Podziewski drew first blood for the team, while the former's last came in the 68th.

In the final game last weekend, Stellalou McCallion drilled a hat trick to hand MP United a 4-2 win over TanHoldings.

McCallion scored in the 22nd and 29th minute to put MP United on top at the break, 3-2. MP United drew its other goal in the first half from Francesca Bucalig, who hit her target in the 20th minute.

TanHoldings, on the other hand, got goals from Judy Ann Andebor and Julie Ann Capayas in the ninth and 18th minute, respectively, but went cold in the second half to fall short in its comeback bid. McCallion gave MP United the insurance in the 42nd minute.

BOYS U15
MP United 6, Shirley's 0

MP United also prevailed in their boys U16 division match against Shirley's over at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Jason Quimzon tallied three goals to lead MP United's easy win. He scored in the 20th, 39th, and 66th minute. Rintaro Miyawaki chipped in a pair with his conversion in the 32nd and 69th minute, while Richard Steele registered MP United's first goal in the 12th minute.

Matansa 8, Paire 0

Matansa shut out Paire, too, in the last game in the division's triple-header.

Lolobeyong Benito stood out for Matansa with his goals in the 51st, 58th, 62nd, and 63rd minute. He drew enough support from his teammates as Razeff Altamirano contributed two and Maui Johnson and Elijah Villamero delivered one each.

Kanoa 4, TanHoldings 4

In the first game, Kanoa forced a draw versus TanHoldings.

Ian Karl Maniago saved the day for Kanoa as he fired all four goals of the squad with his shot in the 65th minute tying the match. Maniago's three other goals were posted in the eighth, 22nd and 62nd minute.

As for TanHoldings, it drew goals from different players with Taka Borja, Ryuto Yanai, and Aloyzeus Angeles finding the back of the net in the 10th, 51st, and 56th minute, respectively. TanHoldings got an own goal in the 30th minute to end the half in deadlock, 2-2.

SSS 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Golden Glove winners, from left, Daniel Matsunaga, Mark Chavez, and Carla Ballesteros pose for a photo after receiving their medals at the awards ceremony for Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Friday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Saipan Soccer School director Eli Arago, fifth left, joins the tournament referees for a group photo.

Kanoa Ali'i players receive the Fair Play award in the co-ed U12 division.

Betde players pose with their runner-up medals in the co-ed U12 division.

Marianas United players and their coach Tyce Mister, second right, receive the Fair Play award in the co-ed U15 age group.

La Fabrica players are all smiles after getting the Fair Play award in the co-ed U18 division.

Tinsel Toes players and coaches Mark, standing left, and Catherine Toves, standing right, pose with their championship medals and trophy in the co-ed U12 age group.

Fake Madrid players and coaches proudly shows their championship trophy and medals in the co-ed U15 dibision.

Judge, Stanton, and Sanchez in Yanks lineup for 1st time

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Westbrook lifts Thunder past Mavs in OT

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3 SSC swimmers top Guam meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

SUZUKI

GAURAN

VILLACRUSIS

Saipan Swim Club's Christian Villacrusis, Sophia Gauran, and Lennosuke Suzuki brought home high-point awards from the All-Island Invitational Pentathlon Long Course Meet held at the Hagatna Pool in Guam late last month.

Villacrusis ruled the boys 17 to 18 age group after collecting 97 points out of the five races he did during the Feb. 17 tournament that also featured five swim clubs from Guam—Manukai Athletic Club, Andersen Marlins, Manhoben Swim Club, Guam Typhoonz, and Tsunami Guam. The 17-year-old SSC member finished first in the 100m butterfly (1:08.27), 100m backstroke (1:16.24), 100m breaststroke (1:21.28), and 200m individual medley (2:40.34) to get 20 points in each event and added 17 more after placing second in the 100m freestyle (1:00.95). Villacrusis defeated Manhoben's Tanner Poppe and Miguel Jugo, who earned 88 and 80 points, respectively.

Gauran and Lennosuke also won four of five events in the 13 to 14 age group and registered 97 points each to take the top honors in their respective divisions.

Gauran prevailed in the 100m backstroke (1:23.75), 100m breaststroke (1:33.30), 100m freestyle (1:11.42), and 200m IM (3:02.7) and came in at second in the 100m butterfly (1:34.01). The 14-year-old swimmer beat Tsunami Guam's Esabelle Eldridge (87), Andersen's Ally Giovenco (81), Manhoben's Angel'Lea Aguilar (74), and Guam Typhoonz's Halili Wilkerson (43) and Amelia Orgill (40).

In the boys 13 to 14, Suzuki finished ahead of Manhoben's Mark Imazu (87), Tsunami Guam's Louis Entera (78) and Kiran Toh (77), Andersen's Joe Young (68) and Hunter Benson (62), and Manukai's Sebastian Castro (51). Suzuki triumphed in the 100m butterfly (1:09.18), 100m breaststroke (1:18.93), 100m freestyle (59.90 seconds), and 200m IM (2:29.82), and was runner-up in the 100m backstroke (1:13.86).

Besides Suzuki, Villacrusis, and Gauran's first place high-point awards, SSC also got a third place plum from

See 3 SSC on Page 30

Kanoa, Shirley's shut down foes

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa Football Club's Theresa Toves prepares for a goal kick during the first half of their girls U16 game against Paire FC in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Victory came in a handy for Kanoa Football Club and Shirley's FC, as they blanked their respective opponents in the girls U16 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

Kanoa played in the curtain-raiser last weekend and demolished Paire FC, 9-0. Paulyn Joyce scored one goal after another and totaled for five to lead Kanoa to its second win in as many games. She made back-to-back in the 14th and 22nd minute and did it again in the 31st and 34th before posting her last goal in the 60th to close out for Kanoa.

Sharmaine Francisco add-

See KANOA on Page 30

San Nicolas gets incentive from NMSA

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association rewarded weightlifter Angel San Nicolas with a $500 incentive for winning a bronze medal in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu.

NMSA president Michael White handed over the check to San Nicolas in front of the representatives of local sports federations that attended the group's monthly meeting last night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"I would like to thank NMSA for this incentive. To be honest, I am more honored with the recognition than the monetary award. Through this recognition, I will be able to further promote weightlifting in the CNMI and encourage others to try the sport," said San Nicolas, who was named 2017 NMSA Male Athlete of the Year last month.

The 24-year-old said he will use the money for supplements, rehab, and conditioning since he is training and hoping to represent the CNMI anew in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.

"The sport helped me get this incentive so I am going to give it back to the sport by preparing and making myself a better athlete," he added.

San Nicolas' incentive is expected to be just the start of monetary rewards that NMSA will give to deserving athletes.

See NMSA on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Weightlifter Angel San Nicolas, right, shakes hand with Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White before receiving the $500 check incentive during a brief ceremony last night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.